

To whom it may concern,

Our names are Jacob and Kirsti Gregory. We are local hobbyist beekeepers who may be directly affected if this bill were to pass. The enjoyment that we get from this hobby is a great stress relief from our everyday lives, and the information about honeybees and honey that we have been able to share with our children, family, friends, and coworkers since becoming beekeepers has been such a joy.

Bees will travel around three plus miles to forage for food and water. We pose the question why not make it 3 or 5 miles from the roadway? We live approximately ½ mile from US Hwy 2. This law could force us to move our bees and hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in equipment off our property.

The decision of how to keep bees safe from ending up as road kill should be left to bee keepers, and does not need this type of interference from a state government. We do everything in our power to keep all our bees alive. A caring beekeeper is not going to place his bees intentionally in an area where their numbers would be impacted from passing motorists.

We understand that there may be a concern for citizens who are allergic to bees. The ND Department of Agriculture has an excellent tool on their website where you may search Apiary Licensing and Registration to view a map of all registered hives in the state of ND where they may want to avoid or be more cautious near (<https://ole.ndda.nd.gov/apiary/map>). This ½ mile distance is not going to stop bees from flying near flowers in the ditch of a highway. If keeping the motoring public safe is the primary purpose of this bill we can think of countless other current laws that should be more strictly enforced to take up the time of this legislative body and use of taxpayer dollars.

We also raise the question about transportation of bee hives. Is the agricultural commissioner going to destroy hives when a motorist complains about following a semi loaded with bee hives being transported to or from their summer home? The use of federal and state highways for the transportation of bees is not outlined in the bill.

ND proudly claims to be the No. 1 honey producing state in the nation. We believe ND does a pretty good job at advertising this. People who travel and live in ND are also aware of this fact and prepare according to how they see fit. According to the ND Department of Agriculture, in 2023, ND bees produced 38.3 million pounds of honey, which was valued over \$67.8 million.

In conclusion, we ask that the committee reject this bill. Beekeeping is an important part of all our lives. It promotes good stewardship of our land, a healthy ecosystem, and is

important to our economy. We have been fortunate to be able to share our passion of bees with our children, who help us tend to our hives and process our honey. We hope to be able to continue to do this.

Thank you for your consideration.