

Members of the Committee,

My name is Bob Morlock, a beekeeper in Eastern ND. I am opposed to SB 2343.

We place many bees every year with permission from each landowner. Careful consideration is put into each location to make sure there is easy access so that it does not disrupt the landowner or his family/property. We use trucks and need to ensure that the landowner's property is not torn up and rutted during wet seasons. They want our bees as they benefit their crops, but also don't want damage done to land as a result. Keeping the bees near good roads ensures this is done and satisfies the landowner.

Additionally, putting in such a law would not guarantee bees away from the road. Bees will travel up to a mile and a half to reach a crop, so if they need to get to a field, they will still cross the roads.

North Dakota is one of the nation's leading honey production states, and putting such a law in place would eliminate a large majority of the locations for bee placement. This would, in turn, eliminate many of the beekeepers and the revenue they generate for the State.

The building where we extract honey from the hives is less than 1/4 mile from the road in an industrial park. This law would create an issue for the use of this building.

As we are already required to get permission, it should be the landowner's right to allow bees on his or her property where they see fit. This bill would take away these rights of landowners and destroy many beekeepers' livelihood. An extremely restrictive one-size-fits-all rule would be an overreach, when there are only a few yards that are causing the issues. These issues can be addressed by calling the Ag Dept., where they can handle them directly as needed instead of forcing them to police the entire State unnecessarily.

Please do not support SB 2343

Bob Morlock
Casselton, ND