

I am writing in opposition to senate bill 2343 regarding the placement of beehives near State and Federal highways. This is a clear case of legislative overreach to benefit a small minority at the expense of the much larger honey producing industry of North Dakota. It is estimated this bill would affect nearly 25% of all bee locations in the state. Oftentimes, pushing the placement of beehives back into the field isn't even feasible.

As an agricultural state, North Dakota should be very cognizant of the risks involved when we legislate how landowners can use their land. This is a slippery slope whereby what seems like one small issue could easily spiral out of control into ticky-tacky laws dictating every facet of land ownership to protect society from any remote possibility. Personally, I'd like to see sunflowers setback further from State and Federal highways to prevent tourists from recklessly stopping on the roadside for pictures and selfies. However, the burden on farmers would clearly be unacceptable so I just honk at these people and give them a thumbs down. Let's be reasonable with this bill and make sure it doesn't pass.