

Committee Members,

I am writing today to voice my opposition to SB2343. This bill, which aims to regulate and restrict the placement of beehives, is bad for North Dakota agriculture and residents. I have been keeping bees, both rurally and in an urban setting, for 15 years and when I consider this bill, I fail to see any benefit that could come from it.

When you know about bees and how they behave, it becomes clear that the half-mile restriction is arbitrary and not motivated by data. Bees quickly disperse after leaving a hive, making the increase in population hardly perceptible just a couple of yards away from the hive. Bees are also known to forage as far as three miles from their hive, meaning the “bee traffic” along the roads would not be meaningfully impacted by a half-mile setback. I fail to understand the reasoning of this setback and my request for that information has been ignored by this bill’s sponsors. All of this leads me to believe that there isn’t a clear, evidence-based reason for this regulation.

This restriction, should it be enacted, would reduce the available locations for hives, thus reducing the total number of hives that exist in North Dakota. While the greatest impact may be seen in hobbyists like myself, the agricultural industry will not be immune to its burden. Honey is a major crop in our state and is an important part of our economy. It is worth protecting this industry and pastime from regulations that will bog down productivity, burden our citizens, and create problems where none previously existed.

Should you pass this bill, you will hurt the agriculture of North Dakota as well as the everyday North Dakotan. Please reject this bill and preserve beekeeping in our state.

Sincerely,

Dana Evans  
Kindred, ND