



Spirit Lake Honey
Anthony Duben
608 W Agassiz Circle SE
Devils Lake ND 58301

02/05/2025

Subject: **Senate Bill 2343**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 2343 and respectfully urge you to reject it.

My name is Anthony Duben, and I am a disabled veteran who served this country for 30 years in both the Army and the North Dakota Army National Guard. Throughout my service, I was deployed four times and was called upon to support emergency actions following natural disasters in North Dakota. I dedicated my career to defending the freedoms and rights we hold dear. A bill that seeks to diminish landowner rights runs counter to the very principles for which I served.

For the past eight years, I have been working toward my retirement dream of becoming a beekeeper, investing significant time and financial resources to ensure its success. However, this bill poses a serious threat to that dream, as it could render many of the locations, I've carefully developed over the years unsuitable for my beekeeping operation. Suitable, accessible locations for honey production are already in short supply, and this bill would further exacerbate the problem, potentially forcing many beekeepers out of business.

Currently, beekeepers are required to obtain permission from landowners to place hives on their properties and to register those locations with the state. The North Dakota Department of Agriculture enforces existing laws effectively, and the Ag Commissioner diligently inspects bee hives, addressing any concerns that arise. I believe that the majority of beekeepers are committed to following these regulations and ensuring minimal complaints. If issues do arise, they can be promptly addressed with a single call from Samantha Bruner or her team.

Senate Bill 2343 would not only strip landowners of their rights but also undermine beekeepers' rights to farm. Please carefully consider the negative consequences this bill could have on honey production, crop pollination, landowner rights, and the broader economic impact on North Dakota.

I strongly urge you to vote against Senate Bill 2343.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. Duben
Spirit Lake Honey
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