

## Testimony for SB 2343

Chairman Luck, members of the Agriculture and Veterans Affairs committee

Here's how many bees you're killing with your car and why it's dangerous for the environment. It's shocking the amount of bees that are killed by moving vehicles. Millions of bees are killed in collisions with cars in the United States annually posing a major problem for the economy and environment. It's estimated that hundreds of millions of bees could be killed every summer, just driving on the North Dakota highways. A study has shown one 110-mile trip from Belcourt, ND to Minot ND could claim up to 175 bees' lives. The study speculates that bees' true casualty numbers to be much higher. Regardless of what the number is if it's millions or billions it's a large number of bees that are being impacted, author Joseph Wilson told sciencenews.org. The study says we're likely underestimating, because every time I drove, I hit at least 10 or more bees at a time. Reed Johnson, a researcher in Ohio State's Department of Entomology with no affiliation to the new data, has warned for years that bee populations are at serious risk. Losing so many winged insects he said bees are the most important pollinators around will sting worse than we imagine. Johnson explained that bees pollinate about a third of the world's food supply and their natural services are valued at nearly \$20 billion annually. He also noted that the populations are declining at a rapid, unprecedented rate. Commercial honeybee colony losses have been reported with an average dropping rate of around 30% each winter for almost two decades. The bee expert also explained that the number once was closer to 10%. Wilson's paper also noted there may be a way to mitigate the damage. Citing similar reports, bees often avoid crossing roads if no vegetation grown from its median.

In conclusion upon our study: The impact of the bees being in the roadways is that 30% of bees die, about 100 Americans die every year from a bee sting, in worst cases anaphylactic shock and the deadliest animal in the United States is the bee. In North Dakota state honey producing is 38.3 million pounds of honey valued over 67.8 million.  $67.8 \times 0.30 = 20.34$  in lost revenue. Furthermore according to the study it was at 10% twenty years ago and now it's at 30%. Studies have proven that it will only continue to rise.

I am in favor SB 2343; I will try to answer any questions.