

Committee Members:

I am a local beekeeper in Turtle Lake North Dakota born and raised. I work hard to provide for my family and have invested many hours of blood, sweat and tears into my family business. SB 2134 will jeopardize the future of my business. I can take any and all of you to bee locations that exist less than 50 yards from paved and county roads ride you back and forth or walk past all day and you wouldn't know that the bee yard even exists. The placement of the hives of 400 yards will take away more than 50 percent of my bee locations, where do we go with them then? My shop is less than 400 yards from a road, is the state going to purchase my property and move my operation to a distance that is required? This is a slippery slope when you start to dictate what a landowner can and cannot do on his/her own property. In the future what happens when someone doesn't want the farmer spraying any crops 400 yards from the road because of the drift? Bees will fly up to 3 miles foraging in search of flowers, how is this 400 yard setback going to help.

We need to let the State Apiary inspector handle the complaints of the yards that are creating problems, allow them to do the job that they have been hired to do. We are an agricultural state not just in grain crops but lead the country in honey production most years. Please vote **NO** on this bill and support the beekeepers that are here and call this home even if it is only during honey production season.

Thank You

Mason Maxwell

MW Maxwell Honey