

## **Written testimony on Senate Bill 2343**

### **Chairman Luick and Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee Members**

My name is Kevin Herrmann, 300 Fair St. SW, Beulah, ND. I stand in favor of Senate Bill 2343.

Senate Bill 2343 has not been the only legislative bill relating to bee apiary. There was legislative bill dealing with bee apiary in 1989, 1995, 1997, 2013, 2015 and 2023.

There has been a history of citizens of North Dakota getting frustrated having bee apiaries too close to state and federal paved roads therefore asking an elected legislator to introduced a bill for a setback of bee apiary.

Bee apiaries along highly traveled paved road is a public nuisance. The definition of bee is an insect not an agriculture product. I did grow up on a farm.

The highest concentration of bee's will be at the bee apiary. The setback of bee apiaries farther away from paved road could help minimize the amount of bee's hitting the vehicle's windshield. The driver does not dare use windshield wiper or windshield fluid which will cause a potential safety issue of visibility through the windshield. Who keeps warm water and soap in their vehicle to clean the windshield? The complaints are not just motorcyclists.

I have made complaints in the past to North Dakota Agriculture Department to the individual in charge of Beekeeping. I would give mile markers and mileage in my complaint but found out the department goes by county plat for location of bee apiary which the general public will not have a county plat on hand in their possession. I found out later for every complaint I made in one year was consider

one complaint not multiple complaints. Since the general public does not know how to go about the process of how or who to file a complaint, the Agriculture Department will say the complaints will be very low.

In 2015 legislative session, Senate Bill 2025 was passed. Senate Bill 2025 was a rewrite of chapter 4.1-16 relating to beekeeping in the North Dakota Century Code. Since the big change in chapter 4.1-16, I have not made complaints to Agriculture Department due to making it impossible to file a complaint.

The beekeepers want to have easy access off a paved road. I will suspect the committee will hear opposition from the beekeepers why this bill will cause hardship for the bee industry. It will be the same information as in past legislative bills dealing with setback of bee apiary.

Please give House Bill 1343 a DO Pass recommendation.

Kevin Herrmann  
300 Fair St. SW  
Beulah, ND 58523  
701-873-4163