

HB2158 Hearing Testimony

Date:2/3/2025

Bill Number: HB2158

Position: Support

Testimony Type: *Written*

For Meeting on: February 5 at 1:30 PM

Testimony By: *Joli Winer*

On Behalf Of: *Business, Heartland Honey*

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Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development,

I hope this message finds you well. As a constituent and a supporter of Kansas's beekeeping community, I urge you to support **HB2158**, which seeks to eliminate the requirement for a commercial kitchen for small-scale beekeepers to sell honey and honeycomb in retail settings.

We are a small business and usually sell at Farmers Markets. I am a vendor at the Overland Park Farmers Market. However, I have 4 commercial accounts. For those I have to have a certified kitchen to sell wholesale. This bill will enable me to not pay that licensing fee and have a certified kitchen. I hope that you will vote yes for HB2158.

This bill offers a **simple, common-sense solution** with significant benefits:

Empowering Small Businesses – Reduces unnecessary regulatory burdens on small beekeepers, helping them grow their businesses and contribute to local economies.

Low Risk – Honey is naturally shelf-stable, and small-scale beekeepers already follow safe hygiene practices.

Boosting Rural Economies – Encourages entrepreneurship in rural areas where beekeeping is a vital supplemental income source.

Aligning with Neighboring States – Many nearby states have already adopted similar policies, ensuring fairness and competitiveness for Kansas beekeepers.

I urge you to support **HB2158** to help small-scale beekeepers thrive while maintaining consumer confidence in their products. This bill is an excellent opportunity to support local businesses, protect pollinators, and strengthen Kansas's agricultural future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to discuss this further or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Joli Winer Spring Hill KS

Senator Douglas Shane, District 37

Representative Carrie Barth District 5

