

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

As a proud supporter of Kansas's beekeeping community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2158, which would eliminate the requirement for small-scale beekeepers to operate out of a commercial kitchen to sell honey and honeycomb.

My wife, Melinda, and I have a small beekeeping business in Morris County. She has taken steps to become a Master Beekeeper through the University of Montana. We enjoy this hobby together and are glad to have it as an addition to our family. We have hives across the county that aid in pollination of the surrounding agriculture. This bill would allow us to sell honey to a few local businesses rather than just face-to-face with customers.

This bill presents a practical, straightforward solution with numerous advantages:

- Support for Small Businesses: It removes unnecessary regulatory obstacles for local beekeepers, allowing them to expand their businesses and contribute to the local economy.
- Low Risk: Honey is inherently shelf-stable, and beekeepers already adhere to safe practices in handling their products.
- Strengthening Rural Economies: This legislation fosters entrepreneurship in rural areas, where beekeeping serves as an important supplementary income for many families.

I respectfully urge you to approve HB2158 to support small-scale beekeepers and promote a thriving agricultural community in Kansas. This bill will strengthen local businesses, protect essential pollinators, and support the future of our state's agriculture.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to provide any additional information or discuss this matter further if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Callahan McIver', with a stylized, cursive script.

Callahan McIver
C&M Prairie Bees
Council Grove, KS
House District 68
Senate District 17