

Date: 3 February 2025
Bill Number: HB2158
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On Behalf Of: Self
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Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Dan Young, and I am a retired and disabled veteran having honorably served 30 years in the active duty Air Force. In retirement, my wife and I have chosen to become small-scale beekeepers in the Wichita area and are striving to make this the focus on our post-service lives.

As a constituent and a supporter of Kansas' beekeeping community, I urge you to please support **HB2158**, which seeks to eliminate the requirement for a commercial kitchen for small-scale beekeepers to sell unaltered and unadulterated honey and honeycomb in retail settings. Removal of this constraint for small-scale beekeepers like us will be instrumental in helping us grow our business without the significant financial investment of building or finding a commercial kitchen and acquiring a food processor license.

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, innately antibacterial and antiseptic, 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, and as many as 20 within the United States, have already adopted similar policies. Passing this bill would provide 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 would be happy to discuss this further or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Young

Senate District 31 and House District 91