

Fellow Beekeeper and Fellow TBA member,

Thank you for taking the time to have your position heard on the matter HB1293.

Please print out page two of this document.

Determine the name and address of your State Representative by going to www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us

Once determined, fill in the name of your representative on the print out.

Sign, date it and fill in your city name & Zip Code.

Mail the letter to

<*your representative name*>, District <*your state representative district*>

P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768

For more information on House Bill 1293, go to www.savetexasbeekeepers.org

Honorable Representative _____ District _____
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

SUBJECT: House Bill 1293

Dear Representative, _____, District _____:

I am writing to oppose HB1293 filed by your office on behalf of the Texas Beekeepers Association (TBA).

As a Texas beekeeper and a TBA member I am concerned about the claims of member representation TBA has made on behalf of its members. While TBA claims to represent all beekeepers of Texas, both members and non-members alike, you should be informed that TBA did not consult its own membership at large before this bill was filed. Instead, TBA constructed their bill in isolation. Only a small minority of members had knowledge of the content of the proposed changes. The content of TBA's proposed changes of Chapter 131 were never presented to the membership at large, individual members or even local club leaders prior to TBA forwarding their proposals to legislative counsel. No communication of the content of the proposed bill was made by any means prior to bill filing. Therefore no opportunity was given for members to either comment or approve. No resolution of support or adoption was placed before TBA's membership. TBA cannot claim to support its members' support of HB1293. Any such claim is dishonest.

I believe HB1293 hurts Texas Beekeepers and native Texas Bees in several ways.

- The bill commercially disadvantages small to medium size queen breeders by allowing the implementation of a regressive tax in the form of fees for newly required inspections.
- The bill commercially disadvantages small to medium size honey producers with new registration fees levied without regard to quantity of hives owned or managed.
- The bill adversely affects agricultural land use valuations because it changes the registration provisions from 6 hives to 25 hives. In many cases, 25 hives is too many hives for the land size allowed by the agricultural exemption.
- The bill allows the Chief Apiary Inspector to unilaterally order the use of harsh chemicals for pest control, when natural and non-chemical pest control have been used effectively in the industry.
- The bill places all bees, both native and domestic, under the authority of the Chief Apiary Inspector who will have the authority to unilaterally declare any native bee an "unwanted species of bee." This incredibly broad authority over non-Apis species is without scientific merit and dangerous.
- The bill does not specify any process of determination or review in the declaration of pests, disease, or "unwanted species of bees." It provides no science-based method of determination, nor does it create a panel of experts to review or ratify these declarations made unilaterally by a single state official.

There are other problems in the details of this bill. I urge you to not to support HB1293.

Sincerely,

_____, Texas

City

Zip Code