

Fellow Concerned Citizen,

Thank you for taking the time to have your position heard on the matter of honey bees for agricultural use.

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'm writing to oppose HB1293 that you sponsored. I am a landowner and have serious concerns over the implications of this bill regarding agricultural valuations on my property.

As you probably know, in 2012, Texas included beekeeping as an "agricultural use" in the tax code. Each county tax appraisal district, of course, sets its own rules about bee hive count density required for qualification. Most counties recognize Chapter 131 of the Texas Agriculture Code definition of an apiary of 6 hives or more. Chapter 131 currently enforces the notion with county appraisers that six hives or more is significant agricultural use, so the appraisal districts follow that guidance.

HB1293 upends that guidance and sets the exemption for beekeeper registration for beekeepers with 25 hives or less. The implication of HB1293 is that less than 25 hives does not constitute serious agricultural use. In many instances, 25 hives is too many hives for the acreage limits allowed by the Agricultural exemption. Also, many locations in Texas lack the forage to support such bee hive count density. This forces the beekeeper and the landowner to place too many hives in a location where they cannot survive, let alone meet some agricultural goal of production. The bill effectively nullifies the agricultural use provision for many properties west or south of San Antonio.

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

Sincerely,

_____, Texas

City

Zip Code