

Fellow Concerned Citizen,

Thank you for taking the time to have your position heard on the matter of our native bee species.

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 H.B.1293 that you sponsored. The bill is a revision of current beekeeping law, but it contains dangerous provisions that place native species of bees such as the nine native Texas bumble bee species *genus bombus*, in the hands of the Chief Apiary Inspector (CAI).

The Texas Apiary Inspection Service (TAIS) and the CAI are responsible for safeguarding the beekeeping industry. Your bill, however, provides authority over all bees, not just honeybees, and disturbingly gives this one official the unchallenged authority to declare any bee an “unwanted species” of bee.

The importance of the honeybees is clear, but remember that they are an introduced species. We should not give honeybees priority over our native bees. There can be no compelling purpose in this expansion of TAIS authority over our wildlife. Your bill does not provide for any panel or committee to review this declaration. Further, this authority is not needed to protect honeybees.

I urge you to reconsider HB1293. There can be no justification to give a single state official the ability to declare our native bees unwanted. This gross overreach must not be allowed.

Please protect our native pollinators and do not provide authority to an agricultural inspector to declare them unwanted.

Sincerely,

_____, Texas

City

Zip Code