

MONTANA STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION # 5

Established 1915

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DATE _____
HB _____
EXHIBIT _____
DATE 1/22/2013
HP 144

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Keegan Fluke, Arlee
Todd Larson, Billings

January 21, 2013

RE: Bill No. HB144

Dear Legislators:

My name is Scott Clark and I am the president of the Montana State Beekeeping Association. Bears are a major problem in our industry, they cause a lot of damage to our bees and equipment. As beekeepers we would like to see hunters get a chance to harvest more bears. Bears are multiplying at a rapid rate and they are hard to hunt with the way the current law reads. Hunting with hounds would be great for the sportsman with an added benefit for us as beekeepers. If a bear destroys livestock, the law reads it must be destroyed, which usually means the bear goes to waste. If we could get more hunters out there harvesting bears it would be a win for the sportsman and us in the agricultural business.

Thank you for your time,

Scott Clark
President MSBA