

TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MY NAME IS ROBERT BARNES AND I AM A BEEKEEPER/HONEY PRODUCER FROM DILLON, OPERATING BEAVERHEAD HONEY COMPANY WITH MY FATHER AND BROTHER.

I, WE, ARE OPPOSED TO SB-216, AND HOPE THAT IT IS KILLED IN COMMITTEE.

SB-216 IS A BAD BILL FOR OUR INDUSTRY. BASICALLY, IT TRIES TO SIDESTEP OUR CURRENT LAW, MCA-80-6-113, BY CREATING A LOOPHOLE WHICH ESSENTIALLY ELIMINATES OUR 3-MILE LIMIT BOUNDARY, ESTABLISHED FOR DISEASE CONTROL. IT IS EVEN MORE CRUCIAL TODAY TO PROTECT OUR BEES HEALTH WITH BEE DISEASES, MITES, COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER, ETC., THAT WE HAVE TO CONTEND WITH.

SB-216 ALSO CALLS FOR A NEW CLASSIFICATION OF POLLINATION SITES. THE CURRENT LAW ALREADY ALLOWS FOR EFFICIENT POLLINATION REGISTRATION AND MAKES SB-216 REDUNDANT TO MCA-80-6-113. OUR INDUSTRY BELIEVES SB-216 IS UNNECESSARY AND A WASTE OF THE LEGISLATURES TIME, IN ADDITION TO BEING HARMFUL TO OUR INDUSTRY.

AS YOU CAN SEE, SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR ASSOCIATION ARE IN ATTENDANCE TODAY, BUT MANY OF US ARE IN CALIFORNIA PREPARING FOR ALMOND POLLINATION AND ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS HEARING. BUT, WE WANT THE COMMITTEE TO KNOW THAT WE ARE UNITED IN OUR VIEWS OF SB-216, AND WISH IT TO BE KILLED.

THANK YOU.