

Date: February 1, 2025

Bill Number: HB2158

Position: Support

Testimony Type: Written only

For Meeting on: February 5 at 1:30 PM

Testimony By: Stepheni Phillips

On Behalf Of: Nickerbee Farm

Email: steko90@hotmail.com

Telephone: 316-516-1056

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development,

I hope this message finds you well. As a constituent and a member of Kansas's beekeeping community, I urge you to support HB2158, which seeks to eliminate the requirement for a commercial kitchen for small-scale beekeepers to sell honey and honeycomb in retail settings.

This bill offers a simple, common-sense solution with significant benefits:

Empowering Small Businesses – Reduces unnecessary regulatory burdens on small beekeepers, helping them grow their businesses and contribute to local economies. As the recipient of the 2024 Black Label Honey award at the Kansas State Fair and a small-scale beekeeper, this bill would give me a wider market to sell my honey.

Low Risk – Honey is naturally shelf-stable, and small-scale beekeepers already follow safe hygiene practices.

Boosting Rural Economies – Encourages entrepreneurship in rural areas where beekeeping is a vital supplemental income source.

Aligning with Neighboring States – Many nearby states (Missouri) have already adopted similar policies, ensuring fairness and competitiveness for Kansas beekeepers.

I urge you to support HB2158 to help small-scale beekeepers thrive while maintaining consumer confidence in their products. This bill is an excellent opportunity to support local businesses, protect pollinators, and strengthen Kansas's agricultural future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to discuss this further or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Stepheni Phillips

Senate District 34 and House District 104