

From: Tom Corbin <TomCorbin@schouse.gov>
To: Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov
Date: 1/19/2012 2:21:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: Bee Keeping Bill

Tom Corbin
Member, SC House of Representatives
District 17
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Phyllis Beighley <PhyllisBeighley@schouse.gov>
Date: January 19, 2012 1:48:48 PM EST
To: Tom Corbin <TomCorbin@schouse.gov>
Subject: Bee Keeping Bill

Last Year some new regulations were put forth in my Committee dealing with food processing. We felt uncomfortable with them so we sent them back. Attached to these regs, was an exception for bee keepers producing 150 gallons of honey or less annually. 150 gallons is equal to about \$4000-\$5000 in annual revenue. The Regulations required bee keepers to build a separate free standing kitchen to bottle-up their honey. These "honey-houses" can cost up to \$30,000 dollars. Bee keepers sell their honey to offset their expenses of agriculture related bee keeping. You can now see what a big disincentive this was. Bee keepers across the State, a well connected group I might add, were very discouraged.

I found among my research that our neighboring state classified honey as a "raw product" and thus had no regulations.

This bill reclassifies honey in our state as a raw product. I worked with the Department of Agriculture to set a 400 gallon exception. This would encompass the hobbyist beekeeper as well as the sidliner bee keeper (those producing up to 400 gallons). The bee keepers love the Bill, the Department of Agriculture was very agreeable and the farmers were enthused at the hope of more bee keeping getting into the dying art of bee keeping, which is essential for good crop production. It's a "sweet" bill. Governor if you sign it into law, I promise you won't get "stung". By the way my new name around the State House is "honey bee".

