

10/07/2016

Administrator's Office
201 Johnston Street
Kenneth F Waggoner Building
St. George, SC 29477

Dear Mr. Ward,

I could not sleep last night. I prayed for all the people in the hurricane's path, but they were told to evacuate and I hope no one is killed. I could not sleep for another reason though, the 2.5 million bees that could not evacuate your stupidity. I could not get the fact out of my brain that your effort to control Zika killed 46 bee hives on the spot, totaling 2.5 million bees.....

10/11/16

I am still praying for those of my fellow countrymen caught in the aftermath of the hurricane.

I am also apologizing for the letter I sent out (snippet above). I'm sure that letter made its way to the circular file.

I guess you had nothing to do with putting our bees on the endangered list after all. I'm grateful for that. The good that comes of the death of all those bees is that if we have to spray again I hope we now know that there is a much better way to go about it.

We all make mistakes and sometimes they come with big consequences.

Thank you,

Kathy

I sent you a copy of the full letter
I mailed to Mr. Ward.

Duh!

You've probably heard the bad news by now that bees were recently added to the endangered species list for the first time. But if you're part of the 60 percent of people who share stories without actually reading them, you might have missed an important detail: namely, that the newly endangered bees are a handful of relatively obscure species who live only in Hawaii.

The bees you're more familiar with — the ones that buzz around your yard dipping into flowers, making honey, pollinating crops and generally keeping the world's food supply from collapsing? Those bees are doing just fine, according to data released by the USDA this year.

In 2015, there were 2.66 million commercial honey-producing bee colonies in the United States. That's down slightly from the 2.74 million colonies in 2014, which represented a two-decade high. The number of commercial bee colonies is still significantly higher than it was in 2006, when colony collapse disorder — the mass die-offs that began afflicting U.S. honeybee colonies — was first documented.