

Instructions for Submitting Comments

- 1) Submit written comments by **January 19, 2018**
- 2) Send comments to: proposedrulesPlantIndustry@ag.state.nj.us
Attn: Joseph Zoltowski, Director
Division of Plant Industry
NJ Department of Agriculture
PO Box 330
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0330
- 3) Copy the NJBA on your comments and use this email: njbeekee@njbeekeepers.org
- 4) If you prefer to send a hard copy of your comments, use the Dept. of Ag address listed above. (You should also send a copy to Janet Katz, 460 Route 24, Chester, NJ 07930-2903)
- 5) Comments need to be personal stories from individuals. Form letters or reused general comments will NOT help. (No matter how many people send in the same comments/form letter, they are all only counted once. A single well supported comment is more influential than a thousand form letters.) Therefore, if YOUR comments are about YOU, YOUR beekeeping story and how these regulations will impact YOU, then **YOUR COMMENTS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**
- 6) When making your comments, please be extra professional. Never use profanity, threats, or any language that would make beekeepers look anything less than rational individuals who are excellent neighbors. You can attack the proposed regulations and say anything you want about them, but NEVER say anything disrespectful about the people who work at the Dept. of Ag. A good rule of thumb is to focus your comments on the proposed regulations.
- 7) Start your letter with something like: "I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed beekeeping regulations."
- 8) Give a brief overview of your beekeeping experience and any other relevant personal facts that explain why you are making your comments. (Even if you are new to beekeeping, talk about what made you get into beekeeping, and the positive impact your bees have had on you, your family, and your neighbors.)
- 9) Comments carry more weight if you suggest a less invasive alternative to the proposed regulations and include an explanation of how that alternative might be more effective. The Dept. of Ag's "Best Management Practices for Beekeepers in Populated Areas" is the alternative we should suggest to be used instead of the proposed regulations. These "best practices" have been successfully used for years as the standard throughout the state, and they are what the Northeast NJ Beekeepers have

posted on its website and have told all of our members to follow. You can find the “best practices” [here](#).

10) When writing your comments, answer some of these questions with your personal story/reasons why you oppose the proposed regulations:

- How long have you been keeping bees with nothing but positive interactions with your neighbors?
- What are examples of positive interactions with your neighbors?
- Do you give away or sell your honey to people in your community? What do people think of getting local honey from you?
- In the Social Impact section, the proposed regulations state that “these proposed new rules and amendments have a positive social impact on the citizens of the State of New Jersey.” Can you think of any examples how the proposed regulations will have a NEGATIVE social impact on you and your community?
- In the Economic Impact section, the proposed regulations state that “these proposed amendments will have a positive economic impact on the citizens of the State of New Jersey.” Can you think of any examples how the proposed regulations will have a NEGATIVE economic impact on you, or others in your community? (farms, nurseries, etc.)
- The proposed regulations will ban beekeeping on properties below .25 of an acre. This will impact most beekeepers in Northeast NJ. Why do you think this is unfair and unjustified?
- If beekeeping is forbidden in our area, what impact do you think that will have on citizens in local communities? (gardens, plants, trees, acquiring local honey, etc.)
- The proposed regulations cite population density as a concern for these restrictions, yet the City of New York allows beekeeping, and the five boroughs of New York are significantly more densely populated than anywhere in New Jersey. Do you think the Dept. of Ag’s reasoning was sound and based on bee biology? Why not?
- The proposed regulations restrict the number of hives that can be kept on properties regardless of their size from .25 of an acre to 4.99 acres. Do you think that NJ’s population density is the same in municipalities with .25 sized lots and municipalities with 4.99 sized lots? What do you think of this regulation?
- After reading the proposed regulations, did you find anything that was contradictory or nonsensical in the proposed regulations? If yes, please explain.

11) End your comments with a summary of why you think the proposed regulations will do more harm than good, and also with something to the effect of, *I would respectfully ask that a new set of regulations be drafted based on the Dept. of Ag's scientifically-sound guidelines, "The Best Management Practices for Beekeepers in Populated Areas."*

12) Sign your letter with your full name and full address.

If you have any questions, please contact Frank Mortimer at frankmort@gmail.com.
Whatever you send in, **YOUR COMMENTS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Thank you!