

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: There are some very troubling issues with the Proposed Order. Specifically, it appears that the Proposed Order is nothing more than a political move by packers and importers to gain control. Under the Current Order, the Honey Board has both significant representation by domestic honey producers and focus on domestic honey production. The Board under the Proposed Order will be dominated by packers and importers and the voice of domestic producers under the Proposed Order will be effectively silenced: marginalized to just three seats on the proposed Board whereas they currently occupy seven seats on the current Board.

Given the importance of domestic honey production, and given the importance of the honey bee to U.S. agriculture, especially as underscored by the recent emergence of Colony Collapse Disorder, is it vitally important that the Dept. of Agriculture continue to support and encourage domestic honey production. The Proposed Order is contrary to these goals and I urge that it be rejected.