

July 20, 2023, Press Release

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Kelly Armstrong (R-ND) introduced H.R. 4764, the *Honey Identification Verification and Enforcement (HIVE) Act*, which would require the creation of a standard of identity for honey and update the labeling requirements for honey. North Dakota is the No.1 honey state, producing approximately [\\$31.2 million pounds](#) in 2022.

*“North Dakota produces more honey than any other state. Yet, there is no standard definition of honey. This puts American producers at a disadvantage against disingenuous or fraudulent “honey” imports. The HIVE Act will provide consumers confidence that when they buy a product labeled as honey, it’s actually honey. These updates are commonsense and long overdue,”* **said Congressman Armstrong.**

*“The HIVE Act is a good step in the right direction to protect against the influx of diluted, adulterated and misbranded honey imports,”* **said North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.** *“Consumers will be informed about the honey they buy and our domestic beekeeping industry will have a level playing field against overseas companies.”*

The *HIVE Act* would:

- Require the Food and Drug Administration to finally establish a standard of identity for honey and subsequently report to Congress on enforcement actions taken with respect to adulterated or misbranded honey.
- Reorganize the existing US Department of Agriculture country of origin labeling requirements by utilizing the consumer-familiar ingredient labeling criteria.
  - Countries of origin would be listed in order of predominance, allowing the consumer to discern the origin of blended honey.

Full text of the bill can be found [here](#).