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SEN. CHAMBLISS COSPONSORS BIPARTISAN MEASURE TO PROTECT POLLINATOR HABITAT

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), Ranking Republican Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, today announced that he is cosponsoring legislation with U.S. Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) that would emphasize the importance of pollinators in farm bill conservation programs. The *Pollinator Habitat Protection Act of 2007* outlines provisions to include pollinators in existing conservation programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Security Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

“By helping to produce much of our food, natural fiber, medicine and beverages, pollinating partners help generate an estimated \$40 billion in income for American farmers and ranchers,” said Sen. Chambliss. “Pollinators also play a vital role in sustaining wildlife and ecosystem health, both as part of the complex food chain and in the reproduction of plants. This legislation calls for additional measures to ensure that our native and managed pollinator population is maintained and protected.”

Pollinating partners include bees, butterflies, bats, hummingbirds and thousands of other pollinator species that play a vital role in producing the food we eat by pollinating 80 percent of the world’s flowering plants. Commodities produced in partnership with animal pollinators generate significant income for agricultural producers, with domestic honeybees alone pollinating an estimated \$14.6 billion worth of crops in the United States each year produced on more than 2 million acres.

In September 2006, Sen. Chambliss sponsored and the Senate passed *S. Res. 580*, which recognizes the importance of pollinators and designated June 24-30, 2007, as “National Pollinator Week.” He will be an honorary host of National Pollinator Week, which is sponsored by the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC). For more information on pollinators and the efforts of the NAPPC to boost awareness of the importance of them, please go to www.napppc.org.

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