

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**CONTACT: JENNIFER TSANG (415) 362-1137**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 24, 2007

## **COEVOLUTION INSTITUTE APPLAUDS INTRODUCTION OF BAUCUS-CHAMBLISS POLLINATOR HABITAT CONSERVATION LEGISLATION**

WASHINGTON, DC –The Coevolution Institute (CoE) applauded Senators Max Baucus and Saxby Chambliss for their continued bipartisan leadership on behalf of pollinators and pollinator conservation when they were joined by over 20 original cosponsors today in introducing The Pollinator Habitat Protection Act of 2007.

“Insect and other animal pollinators that help American agriculture produce much of the food we eat are at risk due to habitat losses and other problems,” said Laurie Adams, CoE Executive Director. “This legislation takes an important step in toward addressing pollinator challenges by utilizing existing Farm Bill conservation programs to strengthen both native and managed pollinator habitat. If enacted, existing conservation programs will acknowledge pollinator habitat as an important conservation resource and reward producers whose conservation practices are beneficial for pollinators.”

Insect and other animal pollinators play a pivotal part in the production of food that humans eat—with estimates as high as one out of every three bites—and in the reproduction of at least 80 percent of flowering plants. Commodities produced with the help of animal pollinators generate significant income for agricultural producers.

CoE advocates amending, or 'pollinating,' existing farm bill programs on a targeted basis to address the needs of pollinators—both wild and managed. Recommendations include: (1) Pollinators and pollinator habitat should be identified as a priority resource concern; (2) pollinator habitat and other practices should be specifically recognized in conservation programs providing technical and cost-share assistance and conservation incentives; and (3) research should be directed to provide the science and tools needed to address a range of pollinator challenges and conservation practices. “Pollinators, agriculture and healthy ecosystems deserve no less,” concluded Adams.

CoE’s Farm Bill position, a group statement by a diverse array of organizations, researchers and other stakeholder expressing support for the legislation, and other Farm Bill information can be accessed at [http://www.pollinator.org/farm\\_bill.htm](http://www.pollinator.org/farm_bill.htm).

***BEE Ready for National Pollinator Week, June 24-30, 2007.*** Events are being planned in our Nation’s capitol and throughout the country to celebrate and raise public awareness about our pollinating partners and the need to take actions that protect pollinators and their habitat. For more information, go to <http://www.pollinator.org>.

The mission of CoE is to catalyze stewardship of biodiversity. CoE places a high priority on efforts to protect and enhance animal pollinators (invertebrates, birds and mammals) and their habitats in both working and wild lands. More information about CoE may be accessed at <http://www.coevolution.org>. CoE facilitates the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), a tri-national collaboration working to promote awareness and scientific understanding of pollinators; gather, organize and disseminate information about pollinators; provide a forum to identify and discuss pollinator issues; and promote projects, initiatives and activities that enhance pollinators. For more information about NAPPC, go to <http://www.nappc.org> or call 415.362.1137.

*“The Pollinator Habitat Protection Act would help growers like me provide additional natural forage for pollinators at a time well after almond bloom when food supplies for bees are critical to maintaining strong hives for almond pollination the following winter.”*

**Dan Cummings, Chico, California almond grower.**  
Cummings is a Blue Diamond board member and chairs the Almond Board of California’s Bee Task Force.

####