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May 23, 2007—via E-mail

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The Honorable Max Baucus
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20150

RE: Strong Support for Pollinator Habitat Protection Act of 2007

Dear Senators Baucus and Chambliss:

On behalf of the Coevolution Institute (CoE), thank you again for your continuing bipartisan leadership on behalf of pollinators and pollinator conservation by introducing The Pollinator Habitat Protection Act of 2007.

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.

CoE is also pleased to transmit the attached group statement of support for the Pollinator Habitat Protection Act of 2007. You will find an impressive and diverse array of organizations and leading researchers and other individuals who have found common ground in their support for pollinators, pollinator habitat conservation and support for your legislation.

Your legislation takes an important step in that direction by utilizing existing Farm Bill conservation programs to strengthen both native and managed pollinator habitat by specifically recognizing pollinator habitat as a conservation resource and rewarding producers whose conservation practices are beneficial for pollinators.

Pollinators are essential partners in much of agriculture and in healthy ecosystems. Strengthening farm bill conservation, research and other programs in the farm bill to better address pollinator habitat needs and best management practices represents a critical step in sustaining and enhancing pollinators and their habitat.

National Pollinator Week will be celebrated during the week of June 24-30, thanks to S. Res. 580, authored by Senator Chambliss and adopted by the Senate in the last Congress. The Pollinator Habitat Protection Act will help raise awareness and lay the groundwork for adding pollinator-beneficial provisions to the Farm Bill in the coming weeks. More information about National Pollinator Week and events being planned in Washington, DC and around the nation is available at 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. CoE manages and facilitates the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), a tri-national, public-private collaboration of scientific researchers, managers and other employees of state and federal agencies, private industry and conservation and environmental groups dedicated to ensuring sustainable populations of pollinating invertebrates, birds and mammals throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. More information about CoE may be accessed at www.coevolution.org, and NAPPC at www.nappc.org.

CoE and its many partners stand ready to work with you and others in the Congress to advance the objectives of the Pollinator Habitat Protection Act into law.

Sincerely,



Laurie Davies Adams
Executive Director

[- Signed -]
Paul J. Growald
Chairman

CC: Original Cosponsors

Attachment: Group Statement in Support of Pollinator Habitat Protection Act of 2007