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The Honorable Alcee Hastings
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Pollinator Protection Act of 2007

Dear Representative Hastings:

On behalf of the Coevolution Institute (CoE), thank you again for your leadership on behalf of pollinators by introducing The Pollinator Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 1709).

CoE advocates amending, or 'pollinating,' existing farm bill programs on a targeted basis to address the needs of pollinators—both wild and managed. Our recommendations include: (1) Research should be directed to provide the science and tools needed to address a range of pollinator challenges and conservation practices; (2) Pollinators and pollinator habitat should be identified as a priority resource concern; and (3) pollinator habitat and other practices should be specifically recognized in conservation programs providing technical and cost-share assistance and conservation incentives.

Your legislation takes an important step to strengthen the Farm Bill Research Title and provide research outcomes focused on the Colony Collapse Disorder and honey bees. We understand that you are working closely with Senator Barbara Boxer, who is planning to introduce counterpart pollinator research legislation on June 26, during National Pollinator Week. The Boxer bill expands the scope of research to include native pollinators and pollinator habitat. CoE is pleased that you have indicated your support for the enhancements included in the Boxer bill.

Pollinators are essential partners in much of agriculture and in healthy ecosystems. Strengthening farm bill research, conservation and other programs in the farm bill to better address Colony Collapse Disorder,

pollinator habitat needs and best management practices represents a critical step in sustaining and enhancing both wild and managed pollinators and their habitat.

National Pollinator Week is being celebrated this week. H.R. 1709 helps raise awareness and lays the groundwork for adding pollinator-beneficial provisions to the Farm Bill in the coming weeks. More information about National Pollinator Week and events occurring 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.

We appreciate your efforts to work with the leadership of the House Agriculture Committee about including pollinator research provisions in the Farm Bill. CoE is committed to working with you, the cosponsors of H.R. 1709 and other pollinator advocates in the House of Representatives and on the Agriculture Committee to 'pollinate' the research and conservation titles of the Farm Bill. CoE and its many partners stand ready to work with you and others in the Congress to advance pollinator-beneficial into law.

Sincerely,



Laurie Davies Adams
Executive Director

[- Signed -]
Paul J. Growald
Chairman

CC: H.R. 1709 Cosponsors