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January 14, 2008—via E-mail

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The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chair
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson, Chair
Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: CoE Conference Recommendations, Pollinator Provisions

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Dear Chairman Harkin and Chairman Peterson:

The Coevolution Institute (CoE) appreciates the substantive pollinator-beneficial conservation and research provisions in the farm bill versions (H.R. 2409) passed by the House and the Senate. We look forward to final enactment of a farm bill conference report containing strong pollinator provisions.

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'Pollinating the Farm Bill,' attached, offers CoE's analysis of pollinator provisions in each version, as well as CoE's position, for your consideration. We found many similarities. In most instances rather than an 'either-or' choice, it is our belief that a melding of the House and Senate language would yield the best language.

For conservation provisions, we would recommend retaining program-specific language from each bill along with the overarching provision in the House version that would 'pollinate' essentially all conservation programs.

CoE continues to urge consideration of some mandatory funding for the pollinator research provisions, and urges the strongest funding possible for conservation programs.

The mission of CoE is to catalyze stewardship of biodiversity. CoE manages and facilitates the Pollinator Partnership, a tri-national, public-private collaboration dedicated to ensuring sustainable populations of pollinating invertebrates, birds and mammals throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

A number of agricultural organizations and USDA representatives are actively involved. More information about CoE may be accessed at www.coevolution.org, and the Pollinator Partnership at www.pollinator.org.

Sincerely,



Laurie Davies Adams, Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Tom Van Arsdall, CoE Public Affairs Liaison

Attachment