

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COEVOLUTION INSTITUTE CALLS FOR “POLLINATION” OF FARM BILL CONSERVATION TITLE

WASHINGTON, DC –The Coevolution Institute (CoE) called for pollinator-beneficial enhancements to the Conservation Title in comments filed at today’s conservation hearing held by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research.

“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. “Modest changes in Farm Bill conservation programs can be highly effective in helping agricultural producers protect pollinators and their habitat.”

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 believes existing Farm Bill conservation, forest management, research and other programs designed to work with and assist farm, ranch and forest land managers be strengthened to better address managed and native pollinator needs. Candidate programs under the Conservation Title include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Conservation Security Program (CSP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), the Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program, the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, all capably operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its many partners.

“Pollinators, agriculture and healthy ecosystems deserve no less,” concluded Adams.

CoE’s full *statement, an executive summary and CoE’s Farm Bill Recommendations* can be accessed at http://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.napcc.org>.

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