

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COEVOLUTION INSTITUTE APPLAUDS INTRODUCTION OF POLLINATOR RESEARCH LEGISLATION BY SENATOR BOXER

WASHINGTON, DC –The Coevolution Institute (CoE) applauded Senator Barbara Boxer for her leadership on behalf of pollinators when she introduced The Pollinator Protection Act of 2007.

“Insect and other animal pollinators that help American agriculture produce much of the food we eat are at risk,” said Laurie Adams, CoE Executive Director. “This legislation takes an important step in toward addressing pollinator challenges by strengthening the Farm Bill Research Title to provide research outcomes needed to better address the Colony Collapse Disorder, native pollinator and pollinator habitat needs, and best management practices. If enacted, both managed and wild pollinators will benefit.”

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 75 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) 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.

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

CoE’s Farm Bill position and other Farm Bill information can be accessed at http://www.pollinator.org/farm_bill.htm.

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BEE Part of National Pollinator Week, June 24-30, 2007. Events are occurring 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>.

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"The Pollinator Protection Act would provide the science-based research outcomes needed by growers like me to ensure healthy and effective pollinators and pollination services. It is an excellent complement to S. 1496, which focuses on habitat conservation."

**Dan Cummings, Chico,
California almond grower.**