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May 8, 2009

The Honorable Herb Kohl, Chair
The Honorable Sam Brownback, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Request for \$20 Million in FY10 Allocation to USDA for Pollinator Research

Dear Chairman Kohl and Ranking Member Brownback:

The undersigned urge the Subcommittee to allocate \$20 million in Fiscal Year 2010 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement the new pollinator research provision authorized in the 2008 farm bill.

Native and managed pollinators are essential partners in agriculture and in healthy ecosystems. Today, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), a host of other pests and pathogens, climate change, habitat loss, pesticide misuse, and other threats to the health and population of pollinators in North America could jeopardize the integrity of our food supply and healthy wildlife ecosystems.

Honey bees and other pollinators make possible over \$15 billion in agricultural products in the U.S., and as much as \$250 billion worldwide.

Investments in honey bee and pollinator research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have been stagnant for years and continue to fall far short of identified needs. The requested funding will underwrite critical unmet honey bee and pollinator research priorities that can lead to scientific outcomes urgently needed to address pressing health challenges plaguing honey bees and threatening the economic viability of beekeepers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ORGANIZATIONS:

American Beekeeping Federation, Atlanta, GA
BeeCeuticals Organics, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Beeologics, Inc. Delivering RNAi Solutions for Bee Health, Miami, FL
Bhusal Agro Farm, Chitwan, Nepal

California State Beekeepers Association, Inc., Hughson, CA
Carmean Pest Management, Fresno, CA
Cheshire County Conservation District of Walpole, Walpole, NH
Defenders of Wildlife, Washington DC
Delta Bee Club of Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Merced Counties, CA
Entomological Foundation, Lanham, MD
Forever Gardens Nursery, Georgetown, TX
Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, Fresno, CA
G.E. Consulting LLC, Buckeye, AZ
Häagen-Dazs, Oakland, CA
Habitat Gardening, Syracuse, NY
High Mountain Hives, Big Bear Lake, CA
Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, Humble, TX
Joliet Urban Garden Alliance, Joliet, IL
Monarch Journey, Doylestown, PA
National Farmers Union, Washington, DC
Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, DC
Omeg Orchards, Inc., Dalles, OR
Pierce County Beekeepers Association, Puyallup, WA
Pollinator Partnership, San Francisco, CA
Sierra Club, San Francisco, CA
St. John's United Church of Christ Organic Community Garden and Labyrinth, Phoenixville, PA
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Portland, OR
Wicwas Press, Kalamazoo, MI

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