



Coevolution Institute
423 Washington Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-2339
(415) 362-1137
Fax: 415-362-3070
email: info@coevolution.org

July 26, 2007—via E-mail

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The Honorable Alcee Hastings
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Dear Representative Hastings:

The Coevolution Institute (CoE) would like to thank you for your leadership in offering **Amendment #75, a Pollinator Protection research and conservation** provision. Your leadership on behalf of honey bees and other pollinators is exceptional. We are especially appreciative that you worked with Representative Earl Blumenauer and incorporated the core conservation provisions from his bill (H.R. 2913). CoE strongly supports your amendment.

Your amendment (1) authorizes research funding to address Colony Collapse Disorder in honey bees and other factors confronting managed and native pollinators; and (2) places a greater emphasis in existing USDA conservation programs on habitat and other pollinator-beneficial best management practices to protect and enhance native and managed pollinators.

As recognized in the farm bill Committee Report on page 226, "*In addition to wildlife benefits, crop pollination represents a major agricultural input, especially for specialty crop producers.*"

Pollinators are essential partners in agriculture and in healthy ecosystems.

Strengthening farm bill conservation, research and other programs in the farm bill to better address pollinator habitat needs and best management practices represents a critical step in sustaining and enhancing native and managed pollinators and their habitat.

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 dedicated to ensuring sustainable populations of pollinating invertebrates, birds and mammals throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Alex Johnson on your staff has been highly skilled in advancing this issue on your behalf. We stand ready to work with you in moving this important provision to final enactment.

Sincerely,

Laurie Davies Adams
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Earl Blumenauer