



<http://www.pollinator.org>

May 15, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader
Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
The Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader
Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, Forestry Committee
328A Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson, Chairman
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Final Enactment of Farm Bill Conference Report, Pollinator Protection Measures

Dear Leaders of Congress:

On behalf of the Pollinator Partnership, I would like to applaud Congress for including strong pollinator protection provisions in the final Farm Bill conference report (H.R. 2419) passed overwhelmingly by both the House and Senate this week. For the first time ever, the Farm Bill specifically mentions pollinators and contains meaningful pollinator protection measures. The Pollinator Partnership supports final enactment of this Farm Bill. While we hope the President will sign the legislation into law, we urge Congress to override any veto.

While on balance the Farm Bill is good for pollinators, we remain deeply concerned that there are significant shortcomings in other parts of the Farm Bill, such as the failure to include an adequate sodbuster safeguard and other rollbacks in key conservation programs. Whether through the Farm Bill or other means, we will continue to urge Congress and the Administration to work aggressively and find ways to address these deficiencies, as they could result in major losses of pollinator habitat and serious setbacks for conservation.

Representatives Alcee L. Hastings (FL) and Earl Blumenauer (OR) and Senators Barbara Boxer (CA), Max Baucus (MT) and Saxby Chambliss (GA) recognized that pollinators were in peril and took the lead in 'pollinating' the Farm Bill. Pollinator protection provisions were supported by an amazingly diverse array of over 50 agriculture, conservation, wildlife and environmental organizations.

The Pollinator Partnership is committed to partnering with USDA agencies and allied stakeholder groups to realize the potential of the new provisions in the form of sound science and helping farmers and ranchers improve pollinator habitat and practices on agricultural lands— benefiting both agricultural producers and wildlife systems that are vitally dependent on pollination services..

The Pollinator Partnership works 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 pollinator conservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Davies Adams".

Laurie Davies Adams, Executive Director