



<http://www.pollinator.org>

September 4, 2009—via E-mail

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Herb Kohl  
The Honorable Sam Brownback  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Pollinator Research Increases in FY10 Appropriations

Dear Representatives DeLauro and Kingston and Senators Kohl and Brownback:

The Pollinator Partnership urges you to adopt in conference the provisions in the FY10 Ag Appropriations bill passed by the House that (1) increases competitive grants funding in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) by \$3,000,000 for pollinator research on Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and pollinator declines, and (2) increases buildings and facilities at the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for research and CCD and pollinator declines. This funding would help fund important pollinator research provisions authorized by Congress in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

The Pollinator Partnership also supports the \$295.2 million provided for USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the Senate-passed bill and urges you to sustain this level in conference.

Declines in the health and population of pollinators in North America and globally pose what could be a significant threat to the integrity of biodiversity, to global food webs, and to human health. A number of pollinator species are at risk. All indications are the problem has worsened in recent years.

The Pollinator Partnership is a nonprofit organization headquartered in San Francisco, California. P2's mission is to catalyze stewardship of biodiversity. P2 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.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

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

Laurie Davies Adams, Executive Director

CC: House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Members