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May 1, 2009

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
The Honorable Jack Kingston, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Kingston:

The undersigned urge the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture 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
Carmean Pest Management, Fresno, CA

Defenders of Wildlife, Washington D.C.
Entomological Foundation, Lanham, MD
Fresno Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, Fresno, CA
G.E. Consulting LLC, Buckeye, AZ
Häagen-Dazs, Oakland, CA
Habitat Gardening, Syracuse, NY
Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, Humble, TX
Joliet Urban Garden Alliance, Joliet, IL
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

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The Honorable Tom Vilsack