WHEREAS, pollinator species such as birds and insects are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities; and

WHEREAS, pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy, biodiverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina has managed wildlife habitats and public lands such as forests and grasslands for decades and provides producers with conservation assistance to promote wise stewardship, including the protection of pollinators and their habitats on working lands and wildlands; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of healthy pollinator populations is critical to the continued economic well-being of agricultural producers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 21 - 27, 2021, as

SOUTH CAROLINA POLLINATOR WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join in recognizing the vital contributions of pollinators to agriculture and to public lands.