

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation* *by* *Governor Bill Walker*

WHEREAS, Alaska is blessed with an abundance of plant and animal species that enhance the natural beauty of our state and contribute to the health of our people, ecosystems, and industries; and

WHEREAS, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our forest, grasslands, and other unique ecosystems, providing forage, fish, wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities, as well as economic development opportunities for individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, native pollinator species, such as bees, birds, butterflies, bats, beetles, and others, provide significant benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy ecosystems, supporting wildlife, providing healthy watersheds, and more; and

WHEREAS, these species are also essential partners of farmers and ranchers, ensuring full harvests of the crops that produce much of our nation's food supply; and

WHEREAS, in recent decades, pollinator populations have declined substantially, which may be due to factors such as pests, pathogens, and viruses; poor nutrition; pesticide exposure; bee management practices; and lack of genetic diversity; and

WHEREAS, Pollinator Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of pollination to the wellbeing of our ecosystem and food sources.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim June 15-21 as:

### *Pollinator Week*

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to recognize and learn more about the important role native pollinators play in maintaining the health of our ecosystem, and to consider planting flowers, trees, and other plants on their property to supply pollinators with nectar, pollen, and habitat.

Dated: June 11, 2015



*Bill Walker*

*Bill Walker, Governor*  
*who has also authorized the*  
*seal of the State of Alaska to*  
*be affixed to this proclamation.*