



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

POLLINATOR WEEK
June 15 – 21, 2015

WHEREAS, Agriculture is Pennsylvania's leading industry, generating \$6.8 billion in cash receipts for the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's farm families and businesses lead the way in the production of agricultural commodities, including mushrooms, Christmas trees, pumpkins, eggs, apples, milk, grapes, honey, peaches and pears; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the work of honey bees, native pollinating insects, butterflies, birds and other animal pollinators, the world's flowering plants are able to reproduce and bear fruit, providing many of the foods we eat, the plant materials we use and the beauty we see around us; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's crops depend on pollination. Insect pollinators, including honey bees, pollinate products amounting to more than \$20 billion annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our 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, bio-diverse ecosystems, whether in the state's working lands or its wilds; and

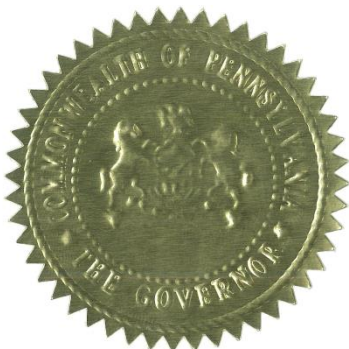
WHEREAS, there is evidence indicating alarming pollinator population declines worldwide. The domesticated honey bee, many species of butterflies, moths, birds, bats and other pollinators are in retreat, threatening not only the production of commercial crops but also a wide range of flowering plants, including rare and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, pollinators are critical to ecosystem health and agriculture, and increased support for protecting and sustaining pollinators is vital to our survival and the existence of nearly all ecosystems on earth; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania promotes conservation stewardship to protect pollinators and maintain their habitats across the state.

THEREFORE, In recognition of the importance of pollinator species to agriculture, forest and grassland environments and other ecosystems, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim June 15 – 21, 2015, as POLLINATOR WEEK in Pennsylvania. I encourage all citizens to protect and encourage pollinator habitats to ensure the continuation of species that are essential to our habitats, economy and lives.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this tenth day of June in the Year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the Commonwealth the two-hundred and thirty-ninth.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor