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The Honorable Herb Kohl, Chair
The Honorable Robert Bennett, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Request for \$20 Million in FY09 for USDA Honeybee & Pollinator Research

Dear Chairman Kohl and Ranking Member Bennett:

The Coevolution Institute (CoE) urges you to allocate \$20 million in FY09 USDA funding for honeybee and pollinator research projects. These funds will help provide sustainable research and combat immediate and pressing challenges like Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and other factors that threaten both managed honeybees and wild pollinators.

Honeybees and wild pollinators are essential partners in agriculture and in healthy ecosystems. Today, CCD 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. The 2006 NAS report on "The Status of Pollinators in North America" states that we are losing pollinators and pollinator habitat at an alarming rate.

Investments in honeybee and pollinator research at USDA have failed to reflect the seriousness and urgency of threats to pollinators. The Administration's proposed increase of less than \$1 million for FY09 falls far short of the investment needed. The \$20 million request is consistent with the Senate-passed farm bill, which includes a \$100 million authorization over five years for CCD and other pollinator-related research initiatives.

The mission of CoE is to catalyze stewardship of biodiversity. CoE 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. CoE facilitates the Pollinator Partnership, which includes the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), a tri-national collaboration working to promote awareness and scientific understanding of pollinators and foster activities to enhance pollinators and their habitat.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Davies Adams
Executive Director