STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

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

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

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

WHEREAS,   the State of Illinois has managed wildlife habitats and public lands such as state forests and grasslands for decades; and

WHEREAS,   the State of Illinois provides producers with conservation assistance to promote wise conservation stewardship, including protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working lands and wildlands; and

WHEREAS,   Illinois is proud to join with the United States Senate and the United States Department of Agriculture in declaring June 22 – 2008, as **National Pollinator Week**, to coincide with an international celebration of pollinating animals including bees, bi butterflies, bats, beetles, and others; and

WHEREAS,   pollinators are vital to the ecosystems of Illinois, supporting terrestrial wildlife, providing healthy watershed, and provi significant benefits to the agriculture of our state:

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim June 22 – 28, 2008 as **NATIONAL POLLINATOR WI** in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to recognize the value and the fragility of the ecosystem services provided by pollinating species.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,

this _____ FOURTH _____ day of _____ APRIL _____, in

the Year of Our Lord two thousand and

_____ EIGHT _____, and of the State of Illinois

the one hundred and _____ NINETIETH _____

Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich

GOVERNOR