



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

It gives me great pleasure to extend my support of June 22-28, 2008 as Pollinator Week in Pennsylvania.

Pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy, bio-diverse ecosystems. Recognizing the importance of pollinators to ecosystem health and agriculture in the United States and the value of partnership efforts to increase awareness about pollinators and support for protecting and sustaining pollinators is vital to our survival and the existence of nearly all ecosystems on earth.

Thanks to the wonderful work of bees, 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. Eighty percent of the world's crop plants depend on pollination. Insect pollinators, including honey bees, pollinate products amounting to \$20 billion annually in the United States alone.

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

As Governor and on behalf of all Pennsylvanians, and in recognition of the importance of pollinator species to agriculture and to forest and grassland environments and other ecosystems, I extend my support of June 22-28, 2008 as Pollinator Week in Pennsylvania.



Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor
June 22-28, 2008