A resolution of the National Conference of State Legislatures Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee, recognizing the importance of pollinators, stressing the negative ramifications of continued pollinator loss, and expressing support for federal efforts to protect pollinators.

WHEREAS, farmers depend on pollinator species such as bees, ants, butterflies, birds and bats to successfully produce approximately one third of all United States agricultural output; and

WHEREAS, in addition to food, pollinators also are vital to the production of fibers, edible oils, medicines, and other products; and

WHEREAS, urban and rural beekeepers play an important role in state and federal agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a key driver of rural and state economies and the tremendous productivity of United States farmers benefits the national economy and the country's international trade balance; and

WHEREAS, pollinator loss poses a significant threat to United States agriculture and the ability of our farmers to feed a growing world population; and
WHEREAS, pollinators are essential organisms in the ecosystems that provide biodiversity, recreation and enjoyment for people and habitat for wild plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) recognizes the serious threats posed by pollinator loss and the key roles that the federal government plays as landowner and manager, regulator of pesticide products, and financial and technical assistance provider to farmers and other private landowners; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee that it fully supports recent federal efforts to: develop best management practices and enhance pollinator habitat on federally owned or managed lands; incorporate pollinator health as a component of all future federal restoration and reclamation projects; revise guidance documents for designed landscapes and public buildings in order to incorporate pollinator-friendly practices; increase both the acreage and forage value of pollinator habitat in the Conservation Reserve Program and other federal conservation programs; provide technical assistance in collaboration with land-grant university-based cooperative extension services to federal departments and agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, and other entities and individuals including farmers and ranchers; assist states and state wildlife organizations, as appropriate, in identifying and implementing projects to conserve pollinators through the revision and implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans; assess the effects of systemic pesticides on bee and other pollinator health and take corresponding action, as appropriate, to protect pollinators from pesticides; and take immediate measures to support pollinators during the current growing season and thereafter, including planting pollinator-friendly vegetation, increasing flower diversity in plantings, limiting mowing practices, and avoiding the use of pesticides in sensitive pollinator habitats through the use of integrated vegetation and pest management practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that states work closely with affected individuals and serve as laboratories of innovation in problem solving and policy making. Federal
agencies should work closely with the states to align pollinator protection efforts and
share best practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCSL and the states are willing partners in the
central government's pollinator protection efforts and will closely monitor federal actions
and progress on these and related efforts of utmost importance to the states and our
nation’s food supply, urban and rural agriculture economies, environment, and natural
resources.