



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

July 23, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Office of the Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Debbie Smith
*Senate Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Nevada
President, NCSL*

Margaret 'Peggy' Piety
*Senior Staff Attorney
Legislative Services Agency
Indiana
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0389-0001

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on its research and risk management approach related to the monarch butterfly and would encourage EPA to take such an approach with all pollinator species.

NCSL fully supports recent federal efforts to develop best management practices and enhance pollinator habitat on federally owned or managed lands. As EPA continues to gather feedback and information on various pollinator species, NCSL would encourage the agency to assess the effects of pesticides and parasites impacting bees and other pollinators and take corresponding action, as appropriate.

We also encourage EPA to work closely with states to support pollinators with proper habitat and nutrition during the current growing season and thereafter. Such measures should include planting pollinator-friendly vegetation, increasing flower diversity in plantings, limiting mowing practices, and reducing or avoiding, when necessary, the use of pesticides in sensitive pollinator habitats through the use of integrated vegetation, pest and colony management practices.

We look forward to working with you and your staff as you continue your efforts to increase the health of our nation's pollinator populations. To discuss further, please contact NCSL staff, [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) or [Melanie Condon](#) (202-624-3597).

Sincerely,

Senator Rita Hart
Iowa State Senate
Co-Chair, NCSL Agriculture Task Force
Vice-Chair, NCSL Natural Resources and
Infrastructure Committee

Representative Justin Cronin
South Dakota House of Representatives
Co-Chair, NCSL Agriculture Task Force
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