

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES AND**  
2 **INFRASTRUCTURE**  
3 **POLICY: POLLINATOR HEALTH**  
4 **TYPE: POLICY RESOLUTION**  
5 **SPONSOR: REPRESENTATIVE RICK HANSEN**  
6 **(MINNESOTA)**

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

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

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

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

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

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27 WHEREAS, pollinator loss poses a significant threat to United States agriculture and the  
28 ability of our farmers to feed a growing world population; and

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30 WHEREAS, pollinators are essential organisms in the ecosystems that provide  
31 biodiversity, recreation and enjoyment for people and habitat for wild plants and  
32 animals; and

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

38 THEREFORE,

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

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60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that states work closely with affected individuals and  
61 serve as laboratories of innovation in problem solving and policy making. Federal

62 agencies should work closely with the states to align pollinator protection efforts and  
63 share best practices.

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