

October 8, 2015

Commissioner John Lebeaux
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114
John.Lebeaux@state.ma.us

Dear Commissioner Lebeaux,

Eight county beekeeping organizations, with a combined membership of over 3000 members and the Board of Directors of Massachusetts Beekeepers Association are writing to respectfully request that you utilize the attached proposal titled "Pollinator Protection Plan Framework" as the outline for Massachusetts' State Pollinator Protection Plan. This document is intended to be the framework for the Commonwealth's program to protect pollinators, including honey bees as required by the Federal Government.

The beekeeping organizations participating in the creation of this document and their members are dedicated to the protection of *all* pollinators and possess the majority of expertise extant on this topic within the Commonwealth. Members of county beekeeping organizations, by far the largest group of beekeepers in this state, are key stakeholders in any pollinator protection plan.

This Pollinator Protection Plan Framework was crafted by beekeepers with hundreds of years of combined beekeeping experience in Massachusetts. Among them are four Published Scientific Researchers, Presidents of County Beekeeping Organizations, past Massachusetts Apiary Inspectors including a previous Chief Apiary Inspector for Massachusetts, two Medical Entomologists, a Harvard Scientist of Public Health, Attorneys, a previous Director of Mosquito Control, a PhD Entomologist with a specialty in Pesticide Toxicology, a Biologist, an EAS Master Beekeeper, Master Gardeners, a Farmer and Commercial and Hobby Beekeepers.

Collectively we respectfully request that your office review and approve our comprehensive and well-thought out document and use it as the framework for our State's Pollinator Protection Plan. It is imperative that a strong pollinator protection plan is implemented for the health and well-being of our state's honey bees and native pollinators. We ask that county beekeeping groups be included as an integral part of the planning, development and implementation of Massachusetts's Pollinator Protection Plan going forward.

We look forward to a favorable partnership with MDAR in this very important task and to your reply.

Sincerely,

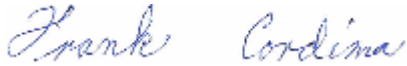
Please see page2 for our endorsements:



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Ed Szymanski, President
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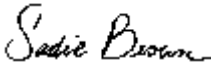
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