

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To encourage and facilitate efforts at the Federal, State, and local levels to restore pollinator populations, including through pollinator habitat conservation and enhancement, expansion of research and education on pollinators, and adoption of integrated pest and vegetation management practices, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To encourage and facilitate efforts at the Federal, State, and local levels to restore pollinator populations, including through pollinator habitat conservation and enhancement, expansion of research and education on pollinators, and adoption of integrated pest and vegetation management practices, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pollinator Recovery
5 Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) scientists have identified several stressors as
4 the primary factors impacting the health and abun-
5 dance of managed honey bees, monarch butterflies,
6 native bees, and other pollinators;

7 (2) the stressors include—

8 (A) bee genetics;

9 (B) diet and poor nutrition, due in part to
10 decreased availability of high quality and di-
11 verse forage;

12 (C) exposure to pesticides and other envi-
13 ronmental toxins;

14 (D) habitat loss, degradation, and frag-
15 mentation, including reduced availability of
16 sites for nesting and breeding;

17 (E) parasites (such as the mite *Varroa de-*
18 *structor*) and disease (such as viral, bacteria,
19 and fungal diseases); and

20 (F) potential cumulative and interactive ef-
21 fects of these stressors;

22 (3) integrated pest management practices re-
23 duce the use of pollinator-toxic insecticides and her-
24 bicides that may affect pollinator health and the
25 abundance of habitat;

26 (4) native forbs, grasses, shrubs, and trees—

1 (A) provide habitat for many beneficial in-
2 sects that consume crop pests; and

3 (B) may be better adapted to local condi-
4 tions and thus require less active management,
5 reducing the need to replant, weed, and mow
6 areas adjacent to roads on private agricultural
7 land and public land;

8 (5) as of the date of enactment of this Act, pol-
9 linators, including native bees, honey bees, monarch
10 butterflies and other butterflies, birds, and bats are
11 suffering dramatic population losses;

12 (6) approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of all native plants in the
13 world require pollination by animals, typically in-
14 sects, and most often native bees;

15 (7) native pollinators and managed honey bees
16 are vital for the sustainability of the agricultural
17 systems of the United States and around the world;

18 (8) insect pollination is responsible for 1 out of
19 every 3 bites of food people eat, making a diverse
20 pollinator population necessary for maintaining the
21 dietary diversity of the global plant and food supply;

22 (9) plantings of noninvasive, locally appropriate
23 milkweed species can create migratory breeding sites
24 for the at-risk migratory monarch butterfly and pro-

1 vide forage and habitat for other pollinators and
2 wildlife;

3 (10) enhancing pollinator populations on Fed-
4 eral public land can result in improved pollination
5 services for neighboring land, including agricultural
6 and wildlife ecosystems;

7 (11) enhanced education and outreach on polli-
8 nator friendly habitat conservation and crop man-
9 agement practices can help ensure the availability of
10 clean, abundant, and nutritious forage for insect pol-
11 linator species as well as habitat for all pollinators;
12 and

13 (12) research indicates that—

14 (A) native bees and other insects are im-
15 portant crop pollinators; and

16 (B) the populations of those pollinators are
17 insufficiently monitored and researched.

18 **SEC. 3. POLLINATOR HABITAT PROTECTION.**

19 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-
20 rity Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section
21 1240M (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) the following:

22 **“SEC. 1240N. POLLINATOR HABITAT PROTECTION.**

23 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) NATIVE POLLINATOR.—The term ‘native
25 pollinator’ means a pollinator species that is native

1 to areas within the United States, including native
2 bees, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, beetles, ants,
3 birds, and bats.

4 “(2) POLLINATOR HABITAT.—The term ‘polli-
5 nator habitat’ means any area of vegetation located
6 in an agricultural landscape, including a field edge,
7 field middle, odd corner, or any other location on
8 private and public land, that is suitable for sup-
9 porting native and nonnative, noninvasive forbs and
10 grasses that serve as sources of nutrition and habi-
11 tat for pollinator species.

12 “(3) POLLINATOR SPECIES.—The term ‘polli-
13 nator species’ means a species of animal (including
14 a species of bird or bat) or insect (including a spe-
15 cies of bee, butterfly, moth, fly, wasp, or beetle) that
16 carries pollen from 1 flower to another to facilitate
17 plant reproduction.

18 “(b) EXPANSION OF ENROLLED POLLINATOR HABI-
19 TAT ACREAGE.—Not later than 5 years after the date of
20 enactment of the Pollinator Recovery Act of 2016, the
21 Secretary shall—

22 “(1) develop a mechanism to count all of the
23 acres that landowners have restored or enhanced
24 during the period beginning on the date of enact-
25 ment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law

1 113–79; 128 Stat. 649) to benefit honey bees and
2 native pollinators using Federal programs adminis-
3 tered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service
4 and Farm Services Agency under this title, includ-
5 ing—

6 “(A) acres of pollinator habitat restored
7 and enhanced under pollinator-specific initia-
8 tives and practices; and

9 “(B) other acres, as determined by the
10 Secretary, from which additional benefits for
11 wild, native pollinators, honey bees, and other
12 managed bees are realized;

13 “(2) designate acres described in paragraph
14 (1)(A) as permanent, including under permanent
15 contracts, multiyear contracts such as 5- to 15-year
16 contracts, or annual contracts;

17 “(3) identify the number of acres described in
18 paragraph (1) that are enrolled in conservation pro-
19 grams or activities under this title that provide bene-
20 ficial pollinator habitat and forage;

21 “(4) develop a plan using programs under this
22 title to expand the total acreage described in para-
23 graph (1) by an additional 1,500,000 acres; and

24 “(5) coordinate with the Secretary of the Inte-
25 rior, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of En-

1 ergy, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Chief
2 of the Forest Service to develop a similar plan—

3 “(A) to count all of the acres that the Sec-
4 retary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense,
5 the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of
6 Transportation, or the Chief of the Forest Serv-
7 ice has managed for diversity, restored, or en-
8 hanced to provide beneficial pollinator habitat
9 and forage; and

10 “(B) to restore or enhance, as determined
11 appropriate by the respective Secretary, bene-
12 ficial pollinator habitat and forage on not less
13 than 1,500,000 acres of public and private land
14 managed by the Department of the Interior, the
15 Department of Defense, the Department of En-
16 ergy, the Department of Transportation, or the
17 Forest Service.

18 “(c) POLLINATOR PRIORITY AREAS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in accord-
20 ance with paragraph (2), shall designate as a polli-
21 nator priority area any area in the United States
22 that the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
23 retary of the Interior, determines to be an area of
24 prime habitat and forage for native pollinators,
25 honey bees, and other managed insect pollinators.

1 “(2) TYPES.—The Secretary may designate as
2 a pollinator priority area under paragraph (1) the
3 following:

4 “(A) Pollinator priority areas at the na-
5 tional level, including habitat focus areas for
6 honey bees, monarch butterflies, and other wild
7 native pollinators, as determined appropriate by
8 the Secretary.

9 “(B) Pollinator priority areas at the State
10 level, including consideration of key crops that
11 are dependent on insect pollination, areas that
12 have significant pollinator species diversity, and
13 areas with high value for pollinators regarding
14 habitat and forage.

15 “(C) Public lands (as defined in section
16 203 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16
17 U.S.C. 1722)), including National Forest Sys-
18 tem land and land under the jurisdiction of the
19 Secretary of the Interior, that have significant
20 pollinator species diversity and high value for
21 pollinators regarding habitat and forage.

22 “(d) DEVELOPMENT OF CONSERVATION PLANS AND
23 ACTIVITIES.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
25 after the date of enactment of the Pollinator Recov-

1 ery Act of 2016, the Secretary, acting through the
2 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service
3 and in consultation with independent conservation
4 organizations and land-grant colleges and univer-
5 sities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Ag-
6 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
7 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), shall develop con-
8 servation practice specifications and conservation en-
9 hancements that create incentives for—

10 “(A) the adoption of pest avoidance and
11 prevention measures that reduce application of
12 insecticides that are toxic to insect pollinator
13 species; and

14 “(B) the expansion of pollinator habitat
15 and forage for native pollinators and managed
16 honey bees through the planting of—

17 “(i) native, regionally appropriate
18 forbs and grasses in agricultural areas pri-
19 marily serving as habitat and forage for
20 wild, native pollinator; or

21 “(ii) densely planted, nectar-rich, na-
22 tive and nonnative floral resources (such as
23 alfalfa, buckwheat, clover, and other leg-
24 umes) in agricultural areas frequented by
25 wild and managed honey bees.

1 “(2) INITIAL AND UPDATED PLANS.—Plans de-
2 scribed in paragraph (1)—

3 “(A) may be developed based on existing
4 knowledge; and

5 “(B) shall be regularly updated, on at least
6 a biennial basis, as additional technologies,
7 techniques, and practices are developed through
8 research efforts supported by the Secretary.

9 “(3) COMPANION PROGRAMS.—The Secretary
10 shall coordinate with the Secretary of the Interior,
11 the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy,
12 and the Secretary of Transportation to develop com-
13 panion programs and activities with land managers
14 in other Federal agencies.

15 “(e) EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND CONSERVATION
16 INNOVATION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
18 after the date of enactment of the Pollinator Recov-
19 ery Act of 2016, the Secretary, acting through the
20 Director of the National Institute of Food and Agri-
21 culture, shall develop programs to provide education
22 and outreach to producers relating to—

23 “(A) best management practices for—

24 “(i) planting and maintaining region-
25 ally appropriate seed mixes and plant vari-

1 eties of nectar-rich flowering plants and
2 milkweed within agricultural landscapes;
3 and

4 “(ii) managing for diversity in natural
5 areas or rights-of-way, where appropriate;
6 and

7 “(B) the establishment of pesticide use
8 safety plans for active crop land and land en-
9 rolled in conservation programs under this title
10 to minimize potential adverse effects of toxic in-
11 secticides on insect pollinator species.

12 “(2) USE OF EXISTING AUTHORITY.—In devel-
13 oping the programs described in paragraph (1), the
14 Secretary shall—

15 “(A) use existing authorities and programs
16 of the Department of Agriculture; and

17 “(B) consult, and offer to enter into coop-
18 erative agreements, with nongovernmental, non-
19 profit organizations with expertise in pollinator
20 species conservation and biology.

21 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Educational materials
22 provided under this subsection shall—

23 “(A) include measures that pesticide appli-
24 cators and pesticide trainees can take to protect

1 managed honey bees and native pollinators that
2 may be foraging on the treated crop; and

3 “(B) be developed to ensure that any pes-
4 ticide applicator applying or supervising the ap-
5 plication of pesticides is knowledgeable regard-
6 ing alternatives to, the appropriateness of, and
7 precautions for pesticide use that may be inju-
8 rious to the health of bees and other pollinator
9 species.”.

10 **SEC. 4. AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.**

11 (a) CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE.—Section 1213 of
12 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812a) is
13 amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(g) ENCOURAGEMENT OF POLLINATOR HABITAT
15 PROTECTION.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To encourage the conserva-
17 tion, restoration, and enhancement of pollinator
18 habitat (as defined in section 1240N(a)), the Sec-
19 retary shall encourage a person to include in the
20 conservation plan of the person, or a conservation
21 system under the plan, the incorporation of, for
22 areas with highly erodible soils in pollination priority
23 areas designated by the Secretary—

24 “(A) native, regionally appropriate forbs,
25 grasses, shrubs, or trees in agricultural areas

1 primarily serving as habitat and forage for wild,
2 native pollinators; or

3 “(B) densely planted, nectar-rich, native
4 and nonnative, noninvasive floral resources
5 (such as alfalfa, buckwheat, clover, and other
6 legumes) in agricultural areas frequented by
7 managed honey bees.

8 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing assistance
9 to a person in the preparation or revision of a con-
10 servation plan under this section, the Secretary shall
11 provide the person with information—

12 “(A) concerning cost-effective and applica-
13 ble erosion control measures that may be avail-
14 able to the person to meet the requirements of
15 this section; and

16 “(B) concerning crop flexibility, base ad-
17 justment, and conservation assistance options
18 that may be available to the person to meet the
19 requirements of this section and to include the
20 species and resources described in paragraph
21 (1) in the conservation plan of the person, in-
22 cluding under—

23 “(i) section 405A of the Agricultural
24 Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1425A);

1 “(ii) the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
2 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.);

3 “(iii) subtitles B, C, and D of title
4 XII of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
5 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law
6 101–624; 104 Stat. 3543) and amend-
7 ments made by those subtitles; and

8 “(iv) title XIII of the Food, Agri-
9 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
10 1990 (Public Law 101–624; 104 Stat.
11 3559) and amendments made by that
12 title.”.

13 (b) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-
14 GRAM.—

15 (1) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGICAL
16 CONTROL PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(b) of the
17 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(b))
18 is amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(j) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGICAL
20 CONTROL PRACTICES.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
22 payments under this subsection to a producer for
23 implementing a conservation activity plan that in-
24 cludes conservation biological control practices to in-

1 tegrate beneficial insects into crop systems for nat-
2 ural pest control.

3 “(2) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall offer con-
4 servation biological control conservation training to
5 producers that includes the background science, im-
6 plementation, and promotion of conservation biologi-
7 cal control so that producers base conservation ac-
8 tivities under this subsection on available practices
9 and techniques that conserve natural habitat for
10 beneficial insects as a way of reducing pest problems
11 and pesticide applications on farms.”.

12 (2) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—Section
13 1240C(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
14 U.S.C. 3839aa–3(b)) is amended—

15 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
16 the end;

17 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking the pe-
18 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(5) that, in the case of applications to imple-
21 ment 1 or more practices relating to the conserva-
22 tion or enhancement of pollinator habitat (as defined
23 in section 1240N(a)), conserve or enhance habitat
24 for native pollinators (as defined in that section).”.

1 (c) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAY-
2 MENTS.—Section 1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985
3 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
5 section (d); and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(c) POLLINATOR HABITAT CONSERVATION ON AND
9 AROUND AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
11 payments under this subsection to producers to im-
12 plement practices to address the loss of pollinator
13 habitat (as defined in section 1240N(a)) and deg-
14 radation of the quality of available pollinator habitat
15 on and around agricultural operations to help meet
16 the expansion required under section 1240N(b)(2).

17 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Payments under this
18 subsection shall—

19 “(A) be made available to producers in
20 areas of the United States designated by the
21 Secretary as pollinator priority areas under sec-
22 tion 1240N(c); and

23 “(B) be used to provide payments to pro-
24 ducers that—

1 “(i) use innovative technologies and
2 approaches for integrated pest and vegeta-
3 tion management; and

4 “(ii) provide high value habitat and
5 forage to native pollinators and honey bees.

6 “(3) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available
7 to carry out this chapter, the Secretary shall carry
8 out this subsection using \$10,000,000 for each fiscal
9 year.”.

10 (d) ENCOURAGEMENT OF POLLINATOR HABITAT DE-
11 VELOPMENT AND PROTECTION.—Section 1244(h) of the
12 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(h)) is amend-
13 ed—

14 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
15 striking “may, as appropriate,” and inserting
16 “shall”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “native” and
18 all that follows through the end of the paragraph
19 and inserting “native pollinators (as defined in sec-
20 tion 1240N(a)), honey bees, and other managed
21 bees.”.

22 **SEC. 5. SPECIALTY CROPS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a) of the Specialty
24 Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note;
25 Public Law 108–465) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “Using” and inserting the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Using”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(2) POLLINATOR HABITAT.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this
7 section, the Secretary shall encourage States
8 and partner entities to develop projects that
9 consider the conservation, restoration, and en-
10 hancement of high priority pollinator habitat
11 (as defined in section 1240N(a) of the Food Se-
12 curity Act of 1985).

13 “(B) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Sec-
14 retary shall use 5 percent of the funds made
15 available to carry out this section to make com-
16 petitive grants under this section to States
17 based on the development and implementation
18 of innovative practices that encourage—

19 “(i) the protection and enhancement
20 of high value habitat and forage for native
21 pollinators (as defined in section 1240N(a)
22 of the Food Security Act of 1985) and
23 honey bees; and

24 “(ii) integrated pest and vegetation
25 management practices that seek to protect

1 pollinator species (as defined in that sec-
2 tion) through pest avoidance and preven-
3 tion to minimize pesticide use.”.

4 (b) SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Sec-
5 tion 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
6 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is amend-
7 ed—

8 (1) in subsection (j)(5), by striking “(k)(1)(C)”
9 and inserting “(l)(1)(C)”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-
11 section (l); and

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(k) POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESEARCH AND EX-
15 TENSION PROGRAM.—

16 “(1) DEFINITIONS OF NATIVE POLLINATOR,
17 POLLINATOR HABITAT, AND POLLINATOR SPECIES.—

18 The terms ‘native pollinator’, ‘pollinator habitat’,
19 and ‘pollinator species’ have the meanings given the
20 terms in section 1240N(a) of the Food Security Act
21 of 1985.

22 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The
23 Secretary shall establish a competitive research and
24 extension grant program to address native pollinator

1 and honey bee health under which the Secretary
2 shall award competitive grants to eligible entities—

3 “(A) to conduct research and extension ac-
4 tivities, technical assistance, and development
5 activities to address unsustainable population
6 and colony losses for native pollinators and
7 honey bees, which pose a distinct threat to the
8 United States specialty crop production and
9 threaten the future viability of the specialty
10 crop sector, including parasites and pathogens,
11 habitat loss and fragmentation, lack of diverse
12 forage, exposure to pesticides, and other
13 stressors; and

14 “(B) to provide support for the dissemina-
15 tion and commercialization of relevant informa-
16 tion, techniques, and technologies discovered
17 pursuant to research and extension activities
18 funded through—

19 “(i) the program established under
20 this subsection; or

21 “(ii) other research and extension
22 projects intended to address unsustainable
23 population and colony losses of native polli-
24 nators and honey bees.

1 “(3) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this sub-
2 section, the Secretary shall seek input from Federal
3 and State agencies, nonprofit organizations with rel-
4 evant expertise, and other entities involved in polli-
5 nator species protection.

6 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
7 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
8 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
9 2018 through 2025.”.

10 **SEC. 6. POLLINATOR RESEARCH.**

11 (a) HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INI-
12 TIATIVES.—Section 1672(g) of the Food, Agriculture,
13 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(g))
14 is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
17 striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

18 (B) in clause (i), by striking “bee colony
19 production and health” and inserting “the pro-
20 duction and health of managed bee colonies and
21 native pollinators, including native bee colonies,
22 solitary bees, butterflies, and other native polli-
23 nators (which shall be defined for purposes of
24 this section in accordance with section
25 1240N(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985)”;

1 (C) in clause (iii)—

2 (i) in the matter preceding subclause
3 (I), by striking “colony collapse disorder,
4 and other serious threats to the health of
5 honey bees and other pollinators” and in-
6 serting “unsustainable annual colony loss,
7 general population declines, and other seri-
8 ous threats to the health of wild native pol-
9 linators, honey bees, and other managed
10 bees”; and

11 (ii) in subclause (II), by inserting “,
12 including potential synergistic and cumu-
13 lative interactions of stressors,” after “fun-
14 gicides”;

15 (D) in clause (iv), by striking “native and
16 managed pollinator health” and inserting “the
17 health of wild native pollinators, honey bees,
18 and other managed bees”; and

19 (E) in clause (v), by striking “honey bees
20 and native pollinators” and inserting “wild na-
21 tive pollinators, honey bees, and other managed
22 bees”;

23 (2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

24 (A) in clause (i), by striking “colony col-
25 lapse disorder and other long-term threats to

1 pollinator health” and inserting “unsustainable
2 annual colony loss, general population declines,
3 and other long-term threats to the health of
4 wild native pollinators, honey bees, and other
5 managed bees”; and

6 (B) in clause (ii), by “colony collapse dis-
7 order and other pollinator issues” and inserting
8 “unsustainable annual colony loss, general pop-
9 ulation declines, and other issues affecting wild
10 native pollinators, honey bees, and other man-
11 aged bees”;

12 (3) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
13 following:

14 “(3) POLLINATOR SURVEILLANCE.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
16 conduct a nationwide insect pollinator pest,
17 pathogen, health, and population status surveil-
18 lance program for wild, native pollinators and
19 honey bees that—

20 “(i) establishes the roles and respon-
21 sibilities of lead and support agencies and
22 the shared outcomes and goals of those
23 agencies; and

24 “(ii) obtains input from relevant
25 stakeholders.

1 “(B) COLLABORATION.—In conducting the
2 program under this paragraph, the Secretary
3 shall coordinate the monitoring efforts of the
4 Department of Agriculture with efforts of the
5 Department of the Interior so as to establish a
6 uniform, interagency pollinator population sur-
7 veillance program that includes input and as-
8 sistance from State and local entities, research-
9 ers at institutions of higher education, and non-
10 profit organizations with relevant expertise.

11 “(C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
12 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
13 to carry out this paragraph \$10,000,000 for
14 each of fiscal years 2016 through 2026.”;

15 (4) in paragraph (4)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
17 (A), by inserting “the Secretary of Defense, the
18 Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of
19 Energy, the Chief of the Forest Service (with
20 respect to relevant rights-of-way on land man-
21 aged by the Forest Service)” after “Secretary
22 of the Interior,”;

23 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking
24 “lands” and inserting “land, Department of the
25 Interior land, Department of Defense land,

1 interstate highway rights-of-way, and electric
2 power transmission rights-of-way in pollinator
3 priority areas designated by the Secretary
4 under section 1240N(c) of the Food Security
5 Act of 1985,”; and

6 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking
7 “lands” and inserting “land, Department of the
8 Interior land, Department of Defense land,
9 interstate highway rights-of-way, and electric
10 power transmission rights-of-way in pollinator
11 priority areas designated by the Secretary
12 under section 1240N(c) of the Food Security
13 Act of 1985,”;

14 (5) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
15 graph (6);

16 (6) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(5) NATIVE POLLINATOR RESEARCH.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to grants
20 provided under this section, the Secretary, act-
21 ing through the Director of the National Insti-
22 tute of Food and Agriculture, shall—

23 “(i) develop a plan to improve the sci-
24 entific understanding of the factors affect-
25 ing the health of pollinator species (as de-

1 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977
2 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

3 “(III) independent expert non-
4 profit organizations with existing or
5 new cooperative agreements or other
6 agreements with Federal agencies to
7 develop and make available to agricul-
8 tural producers and the public best
9 management practices to improve the
10 health of native and managed polli-
11 nator species in agricultural, roadside,
12 and urban areas throughout the
13 United States.

14 “(C) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this
15 paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority
16 to—

17 “(i) research on wild native pollinators
18 for which there is significantly less infor-
19 mation available compared to managed
20 honey bees; and

21 “(ii) research projects that include de-
22 velopment and dissemination of pollinator
23 species health and safety information, in-
24 cluding—

1 “(I) regionally appropriate plant
2 varieties and seed mixes for restoring
3 and enhancing pollinator habitat and
4 forage areas; and

5 “(II) guidance for incorporating
6 integrated pest and vegetation man-
7 agement practices that limit the use
8 of pollinator-toxic insecticides and
9 herbicides that can affect the health
10 of pollinator species.”; and

11 (7) in paragraph (6) (as redesignated by para-
12 graph (5))—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (i) in clause (i), by striking “honey
15 bee colony collapse and honey bee health
16 disorders” and inserting “unsustainable
17 annual colony loss, general population de-
18 clines, and other issues affecting wild na-
19 tive pollinators, honey bees, and other
20 managed bees”; and

21 (ii) in clause (iii), by inserting
22 “through interdepartmental and inter-
23 agency opportunities to implement polli-
24 nator habitat restoration and expansion
25 and implementation of best management

1 practices in pollinator priority areas des-
2 ignated by the Secretary under section
3 1240N(c) of the Food Security Act of
4 1985” after “native pollinators”; and
5 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
6 “United States commercial beekeeping indus-
7 try” and inserting “viability of native pollinator
8 species and the commercial beekeeping industry
9 in the United States”.

10 (b) COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES RE-
11 SEARCH GRANTS.—Subsection (b)(2) of the Competitive,
12 Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i)
13 is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(G) POLLINATOR HEALTH AND POPU-
15 LATION TRACKING.—Health and population
16 tracking of pollinator species (as defined in sec-
17 tion 1240N(a) of the Food Security Act of
18 1985), including—

19 “(i) research to provide an under-
20 standing of changes in range, distribution,
21 abundance, and health of nonmanaged na-
22 tive pollinators (as defined in section
23 1240N(a) of the Food Security Act of
24 1985) that can be used by government and
25 industry for decision-making;

1 “(ii) longitudinal studies of managed
2 honey bees for the impacts of parasites
3 and disease, nutrition, pesticides, and po-
4 tential cumulative and synergistic inter-
5 actions of stressors, on unsustainable over-
6 winter and annual colony losses that can
7 be used by government and industry for
8 decision-making; and

9 “(iii) innovative integrated pest and
10 vegetation management techniques and
11 technologies that address pollinator health
12 and population loss.”.

13 **SEC. 7. BENEFITS OF SEEDS AND PLANT MATERIALS IN RE-**
14 **VEGETATION PROJECTS TO POLLINATORS.**

15 The Joint Resolution of October 11, 1949 (16 U.S.C.
16 581j et seq.) (commonly known as the “Anderson-Mans-
17 field Reforestation and Revegetation Joint Resolution”),
18 is amended by adding at the end the following:

19 **“SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR SEEDS AND PLANT MATE-**
20 **RIALS USED IN REVEGETATION PROJECTS.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the
22 Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that not less than
23 25 percent of seeds and plant materials used in revegeta-
24 tion projects on National Forest System land and other
25 land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service—

1 “(1) provide pollinator habitat or forage bene-
2 fits to pollinator species (as those terms are defined
3 in section 1240N(a) of the Food Security Act of
4 1985); and

5 “(2) are native, locally appropriate species.

6 “(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Agriculture may
7 waive the requirements described in subsection (a) for 1
8 or more revegetation projects based only on either of the
9 following factors:

10 “(1) The benefits of the use of only conifer
11 trees, grasses, or similar species.

12 “(2) The high cost or unavailability of seeds
13 and plant materials described in subsection (a).”.