

March 17, 2021

Our coalition of conservation organizations collectively represents millions of people across the U.S. We are writing today to show our support for the Monarch Action, Recovery, and Conservation of Habitat Act, or MONARCH Act, of 2021.

The MONARCH Act authorizes the appropriation of \$12.5 million per year for the next five years to a Western Monarch Butterfly Rescue Fund to facilitate the implementation of the Western Monarch Butterfly Conservation Plan prepared by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Specifically, this funding will provide funding to support projects to restore, enhance, and manage the western monarch's overwintering and breeding habitats to support conservation of wild monarch populations in the western U.S.

In the fall of 2020, the Xerces Society's Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count recorded only 1,914 monarch butterflies overwintering on the California coast. This critically low number follows two years with previously unprecedented low numbers, compared to hundreds of thousands of monarchs as recently as four years ago, and millions overwintering in California in the 1980s. The western monarch butterfly overwintering population is nearing collapse, and significant conservation action is needed to avoid losing this incredible migration.

The decline of monarch butterflies in western states is primarily due to loss of their habitat – both the forested groves in which they overwinter and the milkweed and wildflowers that they need from spring to fall – as well as pesticides and climate change. Monarch butterflies and their habitat remain unprotected following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's recent decision that the species is "warranted but precluded" from listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The MONARCH Act will provide a substantial investment in conservation activities that will directly support the recovery of wild monarch butterflies.

Please give monarch butterflies a chance to recover in the western U.S. by supporting the MONARCH Act of 2021.

Sincerely,

Aerulean Plant Identification Systems Inc.  
Althouse and Meade, Inc.  
American Public Gardens Association  
Azul  
Blank Park Zoo  
California Association of Resource Conservation  
Districts  
California Native Plant Society

Center for Biological Diversity  
Corazon Latino  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Duluth Monarch Buddies  
Durham Bee City USA  
Earth Discovery Institute  
Environment America  
Friends of Bees, Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice,  
and the Environment  
Friends of the Earth  
GMO/Toxin Free USA  
Grayson Neighborhood Council  
Great Northern Farm LLC  
GreenLatinos  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
Houston Wilderness  
Kansas Rural Center  
LEAD for Pollinators, Inc.  
Leaders4EARTH  
Milkweed Matters  
Monarch Alert, Cal Poly State University  
Monarchs of Monterey County  
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Naturedigger, LLC  
New Mexico BioPark Society  
Oregon Zoo  
Organic Consumers Association  
Pennies for Monarchs  
People and Pollinators Action Network  
Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever  
Point Reyes National Seashore Association  
Pollinator Friendly Alliance  
Pollinator Palace  
Pollinator Partnership  
Pollinator Posse  
River Partners  
San Diego Zoo Global  
Slater Museum of Natural History, University of Puget  
Sound  
The FREED Peoples  
The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma  
Toxic Free North Carolina  
USA National Phenology Network

Utah Monarch Advocates  
Valley Improvement Projects (VIP)  
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation