September 15, 2014

Krysta Harden
Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Co-Chair, Pollinator Health Task Force
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Deputy Secretary Harden,

On behalf of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), I’d like to thank you for your leadership of the Pollinator Health Task Force. ESA appreciates federal efforts to understand and mitigate declining pollinator populations, and we are happy to see that research and extension are acknowledged as important components of addressing this issue. We greatly appreciate the high-level recognition of the issue by the Administration and we are pleased to see an interagency group working together to address this challenge.

As you undergo the important task of developing a Pollinator Research Action Plan, we would like to encourage you to consider providing an opportunity for stakeholders to submit comments. ESA, along with other organizations and experts in the field, would welcome a chance to provide comments, feedback, and suggestions on the Plan as it develops. We believe it would be beneficial for the Task Force to release a draft of the Plan and allow the scientific community and other interested stakeholders to share their feedback before it is finalized. ESA’s broad membership contains numerous experts on pollinators, and we would be happy to provide any additional information or scientific expertise that could be helpful with your development and implementation of the Plan.

ESA is the largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and individuals in related disciplines. Founded in 1889, ESA has almost 7,000 members affiliated with educational institutions, science agencies, private industry, and government.

Thank you again for your leadership of the Pollinator Health Task Force. Please do not hesitate to contact ESA if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

Frank Zalom, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Entomology, UC Davis
2014 President, Entomological Society of America

CC: Sonny Ramaswamy
    Michael Stebbins