

Below is draft legislative language to establish the Pollinator Health Task Force, which was originally established by the 2014 Executive Order *Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators*. It has been critical to guiding efforts to preserve pollinator habitats and coordinate pollinator health activities and priorities across federal agencies. ESA would like to see this Task Force continue given the growing importance of pollinator health to the broader agricultural enterprise. The draft language below is based off of the EO.

Section 1. Establishing the Pollinator Health Task Force.

IN GENERAL - Not later than 180 days after enactment, the Secretary of Agriculture (the Secretary) shall establish the Pollinator Health Task Force (Task Force), and appoint the initial members from the relevant federal agencies to carry out the responsibilities of the Task Force described in subsection XX.

PURPOSE – The Pollinator Health Task Force shall be established to advise the Secretary on issues pertaining to pollinator health and disease, population decline, federal pollinator protection activities, and the implementation of the policy directives outlined in the 2015 National Pollinator Health Strategy and the 2015 Pollinator Research Action Plan.

COMPOSITION – The Pollinator Health Task Force shall be co-chaired by the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The body of the Task Force shall be composed of no less than 14 members, each of whom shall be a qualified representative from each of the following agencies:

- (a) the Department of State;
- (b) the Department of Defense;
- (c) the Department of the Interior;
- (d) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (e) the Department of Transportation;
- (f) the Department of Energy;
- (g) the Department of Education;
- (h) the Council on Environmental Quality;
- (i) the Domestic Policy Council;
- (j) the General Services Administration;
- (k) the National Science Foundation;
- (l) the National Security Council Staff;
- (m) the Office of Management and Budget;
- (n) the Food and Drug Administration;
- (o) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
- (p) such executive departments, agencies, and offices as the Co-Chairs may designate; and
- (q) the Co-Chairs may also designate such individuals who are not agency officials, but possess adequate scientific credentials to make meaningful contributions to the mission of the Task Force.

DUTIES – The Pollinator Health Task Force shall –

- Review and provide consultation to the Secretary, land-grant colleges and universities, and the Committee on Agriculture in the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development and

Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate on long-term and short-term national policies and priorities relating to pollinator health research, extension, and education;

- Evaluate the results and effectiveness of existing pollinator health research, extension, and education initiatives with respect to the policies and priorities;
- Establish, by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members of the Task Force, annual priorities for the award of grants distributed for pollinator health research and extension;
- Engage in regular consultation with participating federal agencies, institutions of higher education, and non-governmental scientific organizations to execute priority research activities outlined in the 2015 Pollinator Research Action Plan;
- Engage in regular collaboration and consultation with the Department and other institutional, governmental, and private persons to leverage federal funding as outlined in the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators;
- Execute the priority actions outlined in the Pollinator Research Action Plan.

ANNUAL REPORT – The Task Force shall, at the conclusion of each calendar year, produce a report to be submitted to the Secretary analyzing the success of federal pollinator health initiatives and make recommendations to the Secretary for effective execution of established activities in the coming year.