

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Bill Ingebrigtsen  
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 3207  
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Senator Ingebrigtsen,

The Minnesota Honey Producers Association (MHPA) represents Minnesota's Commercial Beekeepers. Our members comprise about 5% of all beekeepers in Minnesota but own about 95% of all honeybee colonies. We support common-sense solutions to remove barriers to forage diversity and increase accessibility to honeybee habitat. We are writing this letter to urge the passage of the 2020 LCCMR funding package this year.

The LCCMR bill as introduced in both the House and Senate contain many excellent projects that are targeted for pollinators. Specifically, MHPA has voiced our support for the following projects:

- Improving Pollinator Conservation by Revealing Habitat Needs (Colleen Satyshur, U of MN), \$500,000.
- Bee Minnesota - Protect our Native Bumblebees (Decland Schroeder, U of MN), \$650,000.
- Tools for Supporting Healthy Ecosystems and Pollinators (Jessica Peterson, MN DNR), \$198,000.
- Pollinator & Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program (Dan Shaw, BWSR), \$750,000.

Additionally, we would like to advocate for the addition of the Lawns to Legumes program in the LCCMR funding package. This has been an effective and popular program throughout the state, and the rapidity with which the previous appropriation was spent shows the demand is out there.

MHPA supports each and every one of these pollinator related programs included in this year's LCCMR package. They continue critical research as well as put habitat on the ground for pollinators. Much progress has been made in this area but clearly there is more that is needed to restore and rejuvenate pollinator habitat across Minnesota.

Again, thank you for your leadership during this time and we encourage the Legislature to pass this legislation this year.

Sincerely,

David Schroeder

President

Minnesota Honey Producers Association

cc: Sen. Paul Gazelka, Sen. Susan Kent, Sen. David Tomassoni  
Becca Nash