



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON D.C., 20460

OFFICE OF  
CHEMICAL SAFETY AND  
POLLUTION PREVENTION

DATE: August 12, 2014

Tim Drake, AAPCO President  
South Carolina Dept. Of Pesticide Regulation,  
Clemson University  
511 Westinghouse Rd.  
Pendleton, SC 29670

Jim Gray, SFIREG Chair  
ND Department of Agriculture  
Agriculture Chemical Division  
600 East Blvd., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bismark, ND 58505-0020

Dear Tim Drake and Jim Gray:

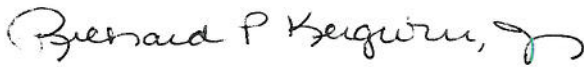
The EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs is interested in partnering with your organizations on the development of pollinator protection plans. As you know, the June 20, 2014 Presidential memorandum outlined measures to create a federal strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators and highlights the need for new public-private partnerships and increased citizen engagement. The memorandum has tasked multiple federal agencies to assist in addressing the factors associated with pollinator declines. The memorandum also directs EPA *"to engage State and tribal environmental, agricultural and wildlife agencies in the development of state and tribal pollinator protection plans."*

Through discussions with the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) and your organizations, OPP recognizes that several states have developed pollinator management plans by productively engaging stakeholders within their respective states. These plans serve as examples of effective collaboration between stakeholders at the local level that can lead to reduced pesticide exposure and protection of honey bees while maintaining the flexibility needed by growers to protect crops. EPA appreciates the leadership and expertise shown in developing the existing state pollinator plans. Also EPA believes that such state management plans can help to meaningfully reduce acute exposures to bees, within the context of sustainable agriculture. These efforts are consistent with those recently implemented by OPP to protect bees from the

acute toxicity of neonicotinoid compounds. At this time, EPA is evaluating various additional regulatory approaches for mitigating risk from other pesticides that are acutely toxic to bees.

Consistent with the President's directive to federal agencies, I am reaching out to you in your leadership capacities to partner with your organizations in two ways. We would like to request your input on the necessary elements and approaches for establishing the state pollinator protection plans and also to work with states in their efforts to develop pollinator protection plans. We view these collaborations as the first step in applying the principles used for mitigating the impact of neonicotinoid compounds on bees to reduce exposure of other compounds that are acutely toxic to bees. EPA appreciates how important it is for state lead agencies to interact with the public and stakeholders in efforts to help improve bee health and also support agriculture. The federal-state partnerships are a key component of our activities under the Task Force and will help advance the President's directive to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators.

Sincerely,



for Jack Housenger  
Director  
Office of Pesticide Programs