



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, pollinators – including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, and certain bird and insect species – are crucial to the health of New York State's environment, as well as the strength of our agricultural economy; protecting and preserving pollinator populations across New York State is environmentally and agriculturally beneficial and contributes to sustaining a healthy economy; and

Whereas, the number of pollinators has dropped significantly over the years and these losses are believed to be caused by a combination of factors – including poor nutrition, loss of foraging habitats, parasites, pesticides, pathogens, lack of genetic diversity, poor land management practices, and the growing threat of climate change; and

Whereas, New York State's pollinator population is vital to the state's crop industry and food production, contributing significantly to the agricultural economy by providing more than \$340 million to the value of the State's food crops through pollination on an annual basis and adding \$29 billion in value to crop production nationally each year; and

Whereas, the promotion of the health and recovery of pollinator populations is increasingly important to the production of such crops as apples, cherries, onions, pumpkins, and cauliflower; and

Whereas, New York State's current policies to enhance foraging habitats, such as best management practices, encourage pollinator-friendly planting and use of natural forms of pest management to the maximum extent on state lands, demonstrates New York State's leading effort to promote the health of pollinators; and

Whereas, in 2016, New York State released a statewide action plan through an interagency task force chaired by the Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner and the Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, expanding the State's efforts to protect these species and their natural habitats and find meaningful solutions to this serious issue, marking an important step forward in the state's ecological and economic future; and

Whereas, since the statewide action plan was released, New York State has made strides in efforts to protect pollinators through the four main goals of the plan – Best Management Practices; Habitat Enhancement; Research; and Outreach and Education; and

Whereas, the State has provided funds in Fiscal Year 2017-18 to help meet the goals of the statewide action plan, including funds to assist apiarists with beekeeping practices and create an inventory of wild pollinators in New York State; and

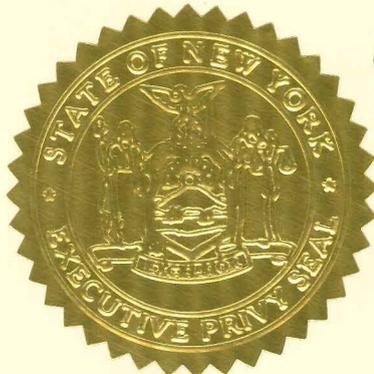
Whereas, New York State works with the federal government and the agricultural community to promote wise conservation stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working lands and in nature; and

Whereas, Pollinator Protection Week provides an opportunity for New Yorkers to learn about the significance of pollinators to the future of our state's agricultural industry and natural habitats, and the importance of increasing efforts to protect the many pollinating species within our borders; it is fitting that we support the goals of this meaningful observance which seeks to preserve the pollinator populations that make essential contributions on a statewide, national, and global scale;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 19 - 25, 2017 as

POLLINATOR WEEK

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this nineteenth day of June in the year two thousand seventeen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa