Honey Bee Pollination...
The Cornerstone of Agricultural Bounty

May 13, 2009

Michigan House of Representatives
Agriculture Committee

Re: House Resolution 079

The Michigan Beekeepers' Association strongly supports the House resolution to create a "Pollinator Week".

Michigan has more than 15 fruit crops that depend upon pollination for their success, as well as many more crops that would not be productive without pollen transfer by bees. In addition, homeowners, wildlife, and our general well-being are benefited by our pollinating insects.

About 90 percent of all pollination is accomplished by honey bees, and the movement and placement of colonies of bees into our fruit orchards, by beekeepers, ensures that these industries remain viable and productive.

Creating a Pollinator Week will help bring awareness of the importance of pollinators, and especially for our industry, an appreciation of the vital role that honey bees play in food production. Michigan beekeepers strongly believe in the statement on our letterhead...*honey bees are the cornerstone of agriculture bounty*. Since Michigan is such a large fruit producing state, this statement is doubly true.

Roger Hoopingarner, Ph.D.
MBA Treasurer
For the
Michigan Beekeepers' Association