



December 5, 2017

Leonard Jordan, Chief (Acting)
Natural Resources Conservation Service
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Room 5105A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Jordan:

The US Canola Association, National Sunflower Association, and American Honey Producers Association write to submit the attached proposal for additional Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) enhancements for your review and consideration for the 2018 and subsequent crop years. The primary purpose of the enhancements is to encourage the introduction as well as the continuation of canola and/or sunflowers in cropping rotations to provide habitat for honey bees and wild pollinators. We also encourage the development of similar incentives through a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for producers not participating in CSP.

Lack of suitable habitat that provides forage and nutrition has been identified by the Honey Bee Health Coalition as a major contributing factor in the decline of both honey bee and wild pollinator health and numbers. The loss of habitat is due to declining wild spaces and increased agricultural monocultures. Increasing the acreage of cropland planted annually to canola or sunflowers would have an immediate positive impact on honey bee and wild pollinator health. It is also essential to maintain current acreages planted to the crops – roughly 1-1/2 million acres each – as this land does provide essential habitat and forage for honey bees at the present time.

If there are questions regarding this proposal, contact Dale Thorenson at 202-969-8900 or email dthorenson@gordley.com; or Eric Silva at 617-947-2633 or email eric@nsgovstrat.com.

Thank you in advance for your review and consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Rynning
President
U.S. Canola Assoc.

Karl Esping
President
National Sunflower Assoc.

Kelvin Adee
President
American Honey Producers Assoc.