



Partners for Sustainable Pollination

September 10, 2009

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1216—Updated Legal Standard of Identity for Honey in California

Partners for Sustainable Pollination (PFSP) is pleased to write in strong support of AB 1216, “*An Act to Amend Section 29413 of the Food and Agricultural Code, Relating to Honey.*” It is our understanding that the California State Legislature has passed AB 1216 and forwarded the legislation to your desk for your signature. PFSP urges you to sign this important legislation into law.

PFSP is a volunteer-based nonprofit headquartered in Santa Rosa, California that is dedicated to improving the health of honey bees through a collaborative approach involving beekeepers, growers, scientists and land management agencies with a concurrent objective of contributing to restoring native pollinator populations.

AB 1216 is an important step for beekeepers and consumers alike in the campaign to eliminate adulterated honey and support local agriculture. Honey and crop pollination services are the two critical sources of revenue for commercial beekeepers in California. Adulterated honey depresses honey prices and jeopardizes the economic viability of commercial beekeepers, who are already hard pressed by multiple challenges, including Colony Collapse Disorder, mites and diseases, the drought and lack of safe bee forage.

The text of AB 1216 is nearly identical to a petition filed with the U. S. Food and Drug Administration in 2006 by the major national beekeeping and honey organizations, and is modeled after the modified CODEX international honey standard. When this bill becomes law, California will be the second state in the nation, following Florida, to establish a new legal standard of identity for honey.

Sincerely,

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