

Date:



Dear [MEMBER OF CONGRESS],

As your constituent and a member of the Pollinator Pathway, I am writing to urge you to restore funding to the [USGS Bee Lab](#) at the Eastern Ecological Science Center in Patuxent, Maryland.

The USGS Bee Lab supports critical research on native bees. As part of that program they and their co-located USFWS partners develop identification tools and keys for native bee species, take public access hi resolution photographs of bees, work with partners from all the states of the unions, design and test bee counting techniques and document bee/plant associations as well as double checking researchers' identification of native bee species. Their goal is to assist those who do research on native bees to increase their ability to research bees accurately and efficiently. They are the only group in the Department of the Interior who currently has the expertise to identify native bees to species.

Now more than ever, in the face of catastrophic global declines in insect populations, funding for native bee research is critical. Native bees are vital for pollination, contributing significantly to the health of both native plants and agricultural crops. Additionally, many native bee species face threats, including habitat loss and pesticide use, making research essential for conservation efforts. Research helps identify the causes of bee declines, develop strategies to protect them, and ultimately ensures the continued functioning of healthy ecosystems and food systems.

The Bee Lab plays a critical role in supporting grassroots organizations like the [Pollinator Pathway](#) in our mission to restore imperiled pollinator populations. The Pollinator Pathway represents a diverse cross section of over 10,000 citizens in 47 states.

Yours sincerely,

Name and Pollinator Pathway affiliation

Cc: Sam Droege [droegesam@gmail.com](mailto:droegesam@gmail.com)

