

Dear Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

My name is Troy Schroeder and I am a retired Rush Co. farmer. I have an interest in the development of pollinator habitat and have participated in USDA and State programs to establish pollinator habitat on my farm as well as established some small areas in my community on my own. So far, I have planted 25 acres under CSP and will be planting about 35 more in the next couple years. I have also included pollinator plants in my CRP. If successful in reenrolling, I will be planting 10% of these CRP acres to pollinator plants. I feel that pollinator habitat is very important, given that pollinator populations have suffered in recent times and the importance of pollinators to both farmers and the ecosystem.

I also support the development of renewable energy including solar. I purchased solar panels as a part of Midwest Energy's solar farm and receive about half of my energy from this source. I am writing in support of HB 2623 that would encourage the establishment of pollinator habitat associated with solar development. This action would benefit pollinators as well as perhaps encourage solar development."

Sincerely,

Troy Schroeder
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