



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, pollinator species such as birds and insects are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, pollination plays a vital role in the health of our national forests and grasslands, which provide forage, fish and wildlife, timber, water, mineral resources, and recreational opportunities as well as enhanced economic development opportunities for communities; and

WHEREAS, more than 150 fruit, nut, vegetable and seed crops benefit from pollination valued at \$20 billion annually in the U.S. and \$500 million in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, pollinator species provide significant environmental benefits that are necessary for maintaining healthy, biodiverse ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has managed wildlife habitats and public lands such as forests and grasslands for decades; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee provides producers with conservation assistance to promote wise conservation stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on working lands and wildlands;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of June 20-26, 2016 as

Pollinator Week

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this eighth day of February, 2016.



Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Scott W. Fitzgerald in blue ink.

Secretary of State