



# SOUTH SHORE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

*Inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life*

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April 5, 2013

Office of the Governor  
Room 360 State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

Six years ago the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of the final week in June as "Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Last year 38 states declared their own state Pollinator Week. With your help, we hope to reach 100% state participation this year. The popularity and public enthusiasm for Pollinator Week has been overwhelming. In 2013 we can continue to build on the tremendous success of this movement **with your involvement**.

In 2008, our class joined the Pollinator Week campaign and asked for your help in making it happen in our state. Thank you for your support! The students and I were very excited to receive your official proclamation on the very last day of school, that year. We still treasure it in my classroom.

Again this year, we have been studying about the plight of honeybees and other pollinators and are writing to ask your support in helping to protect pollinating animals, which are vital to our food supply, economy, and a key to global sustainability, by declaring "**Massachusetts Pollinator Week, June 17-23, 2013**."

One recommendation of the landmark National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council study, *Status of Pollinators in North America*, was an immediate increase in public awareness of the vital roles pollinators play in our lives. By declaring Pollinator Week in Massachusetts, you will be helping to do exactly that.

In just six years, Pollinator Week has become an international celebration of the invaluable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats and beetles. The growing concern for pollinators is a sign of progress, but it is vital that we continue to maximize our collective effort.

Please consider joining this movement to protect one of the foundations of life that has been largely ignored. A sample proclamation is enclosed. Thank you for supporting the great state of Massachusetts and its citizens through your advocacy for pollinators.

Students in my classroom will be planning a celebration of pollinators' event for June 17, 2013. We will send you further information about that event when it is finalized. My students are excited to ask for your support and are eager to work hard to put their best effort toward making this event happen in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Velma A. Begley  
First and Second Grade Teacher

## State of STATE

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

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

WHEREAS, the State of STATE 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor LAST NAME, Governor of the State of STATE, do hereby proclaim the week of June 17-23, 2013 as

## **STATE Pollinator Week**

throughout the State of STATE, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

**NOTE - Please send a copy of your proclamation to:**

Jennifer Tsang  
Pollinator Partnership  
423 Washington Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
415-362-1137  
[jt@pollinator.org](mailto:jt@pollinator.org)

Your State proclamation will be posted on [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org) to publicize National Pollinator Week.

**Thank you for helping pollinators!**



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April 11, 2013

Office of the Governor  
Room 360, State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

Enclosed please find:

1. A copy of a letter to Governor Patrick, requesting a Proclamation for Pollinator Week, June 17-23, 2013;
2. Individual letters from first and second grade students at South Shore Charter Public School

A copy of the request letter and a copy of the suggested wording for the Proclamation has been faxed to Constituent Services.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Velma Begley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Velma Begley