



## 2014 Legislative Agriculture Chairs Summit

### Resolution Encouraging Efforts to Increase Pollinators

- Whereas,** the State Ag and Rural Leaders, (SARL) is comprised of agriculture and rural leaders of state and provincial legislative bodies from the US and Canada; and
- Whereas,** bees and bats, have a critically important role in agriculture and horticulture and help to produce a healthy, abundant and affordable food and fiber supply and sustain ecosystem health; and
- Whereas,** U.S. Department of Agriculture says bee pollination is responsible for more than \$15 billion in increased crop value each year and that bats serve as both pollinators and insect predators with a value of more than \$22 billion a year to agriculture; and
- Whereas,** possible declines in the health, distribution and population of bees and bats pose what could be a significant threat to global food supplies; and
- Whereas,** there is an urgent need for research to further identify causes and solutions to the loss of both bee and bat populations; now therefore be it
- Resolved,** State Agriculture and Rural Leaders supports research on causes and practical solutions, coordinated among states, governments, academia, growers, and industry; and be it further
- Resolved,** that states, provinces and federal governments consider policies to encourage an increase in bee and bat friendly habitat and forage areas; and be it further
- Resolved,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state and federal officials.