

Beekeepers' Legislative Priorities - 2010

•**Funding for CCD Research.** Reports continue to reach us that many of our members and other beekeepers are again having large losses due to Colony Collapse Disorder. The Farm Bill authorized additional funds for CCD research, but only a portion of that was actually appropriated. We encouraged Congress to appropriate the authorized funds. The President's budget includes \$500,000 in new funding for CCD research. In the present economic climate, we might not get any additional funding, but we certainly want to maintain what we have.

•**Protecting our Honey Market.** Adulteration of honey with cheap sweeteners is threatening our market, as is illegal imports, particularly transshipment of Chinese honey through intermediary countries. Our honey market is in precarious shape. We need to take strong steps to shore it up.

FDA has promised Congress that it will get to work on the honey standard of identity the industry submitted nearly four years ago. We need Congressional offices to prod FDA to move ahead on that commitment. The standard of identity will give state and federal enforcement officials a better tool to use to stop those who are adding cheaper sweeteners to our honey.

•**Disaster Programs and Crop Insurance.** We are continuing to work for USDA disaster programs to be more "user friendly" to beekeepers. The revisions to the ELAP disaster program have finally been released. USDA is considering expanding the beekeeper crop insurance program to include more than honey. We are consulting on this.

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