RESOLUTION URGING PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS FROM MISAPPLICATION OF HERBICIDES

Whereas the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization recognizes pollination as responsible for providing us with a wide variety of food, and that bees and other pollinators affect 35 % of the world's crops; and

Whereas pollinators, both native and managed, are an important part of King County's agriculture and ecosystem; and

Whereas pollinators have been adversely affected by poorly timed application of both herbicides and pesticides, specifically while plants are in bloom and being actively worked by pollinators; and

Whereas agencies have taken steps to adjust pesticide applications to minimize impacts on pollinators, the same cannot be said of herbicide applications, which have resulted in many pollinator colony die-offs as reported by beekeepers throughout King County; and

Whereas managed honeybee colonies can be counted, making impacts on them easy to gauge, there is no reliable method for tracking losses of other native pollinators that are affected in a like manner;

Therefore, be it resolved that we urge King County and the City of Seattle to adopt pollinator-friendly methods for control of unwanted vegetation, including mechanical removal of such vegetation wherever practical; and

Be it further resolved that, whenever herbicide use is unavoidable, agencies should adopt policies that preclude application of herbicides on flowering plants while those plants are being actively foraged by pollinators; and

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to King County Executive Dow Constantine (kcexec@kingcounty.gov); Steven Burke, Noxious Weeds Knotweed Control (Steven-J.Burke@kingcounty.gov); King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski, Chair of the County's Transportation, Economy, and Environmental Committee (rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov); all other members of the King County Council; and the Washington State Democratic Party.

Adopted _____ *by* _____

Originated by Bob Combs and Ivan Weiss,
ivan.weiss@centurytel.net; bob@combshoney.com
Previously adopted by the 34th District Democrats