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Dr. Joseph Dorsey  
[dorseyjw@usf.edu](mailto:dorseyjw@usf.edu)  
Office of Sustainability  
University of South Florida

Dear Dr. Joseph Dorsey,

I am writing you to give you a letter of support for the Apiary Project at the University of South Florida. I am a postdoctoral research associate in the Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory at the University of Florida. My research is aimed at improving honey bee health by focusing on ways we can increase honey bee resistance to pesticides, pests, and pathogens, while simultaneously finding ways to reduce pest and pathogen resistance to current control strategies. Dr. Brent Weisman has contributed time and effort in assisting with my research. I highly endorse the Apiary Project as part of the USF sustainability initiative and Dr. Weisman's leadership in this endeavor.

Pollinators are essential to our society by providing pollination for the majority of our agricultural crops. Of these pollinators, honey bees are the most important due to their large colony size, ease of management and transportation, and widespread visitation to many different species of plants. However during the last decade, beekeepers in the US have had unprecedented honey bee losses with no straightforward cause. These declines have been attributed to many stressors, including pathogens, parasites, habitat loss, malnutrition, and pesticides. Honey bee declines are threatening food security as our nation's agricultural production is dependent on proper pollination.

One of the best strategies for sustaining honey bee populations is through public outreach and education. Equipping the public with a practical knowledge of beekeeping, while simultaneously providing ideas and methods for promoting pollinator health, will promote pollinator health in the State. Furthermore, raising awareness to the public on our dependence on pollinators can bring invaluable opportunities for citizen science and avenues for research funding aimed at improving honey bee health. Our survival as a society and as a culture is dependent on the honey bee and the Apiary Project provides an excellent model system of sustainability. I look forward seeing this project grow under the leadership of Dr. Weisman. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Warm Regards,



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