**Draft Letter of support to become a Bee City USA affiliate**

This can be an email or letter sent by an individual or group to a city councilor or mayor. It is generally more effective to reach out to an elected official that represents you, rather than an official in a different district or city than your home.

Bee City USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society. Please visit BeeCityUSA.org for more information on our work.

**Template Letter:**

Dear [City Councilor’s/Mayor’s name],

[Share an anecdote about pollinator conservation project in your town, (1-2 sentences): a new community garden, an effective pesticide reduction policy of the city, etc.

Example: “This spring I have enjoyed walking my dog in the pollinator garden in Central Park. It is so nice to see the wide variety of bees on all the beautiful flowers”]

I‘m sure that you, like so many of us, have read news articles and seen headlines about the struggles facing bees and other pollinators. The population of monarch butterflies has crashed, a quarter of bumble bees are declining, managed honey bee hives are lost—but these are just the well-known examples. Thousands of species of bees and butterflies are threatened due to habitat loss, pesticides, diseases, and climate change. Pollinators touch our lives every day. In addition to the beauty of wildflowers in a meadow, pollinators are responsible for one in three bites of food we consume and are at the heart of a healthy environment on which we all rely.

If we work together as a community, we can have a positive impact on the future of pollinators. As our city grows and evolves, we have an opportunity to adopt innovative pollinator conservation policies: create habitat in our neighborhoods, change how we use pesticides, find ways to engage more people.

[I/We/group name] urge [City Name] to become a Bee City USA certified affiliate to develop more sustainable landscape practices to help protect bees and other pollinators. The European honey bee is important for local agriculture, but we also have many dozens of species of native bees that are a necessary part of our local environment as well as supporting harvests on farms, community gardens, and backyards. Together, these bees support the vitality and economy of [City Name].

[City Name] has already set up initiatives that align with the commitments for the Bee City USA certification [provide example]. Taking the next step to become a Bee City will bring national recognition to what we are already doing.

[I/We/group name] are excited for the opportunity to join Bee City USA, an initiative where cities can collaborate and support one another to make an impact. You can learn more at beecityusa.org. Let’s make [city name] a Bee City USA affiliate!

Sincerely,

[Your name/group name]

[contact information]

**Optional extra information to include in your letter:**

Include some of the benefits: https://beecityusa.org/benefits/

Include the applications steps: https://beecityusa.org/apply-to-bee-city-usa/