



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES
1445 Federal Drive • Montgomery, Alabama 36107-1123

John McMillan
Commissioner

January 20, 2015

Public Comments Processing
Attention: FWS-R3-ES-2014-0056
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: BPHC
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

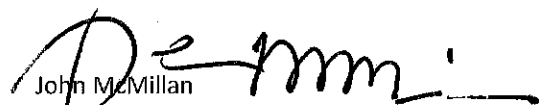
Though I support Monarch conservation and efforts to protect the Monarch butterfly, I am deeply concerned about adding this species to the threatened or endangered species list. I am afraid listing this butterfly could actually cause more harm than benefit. My main concerns rest in the following areas:

- 1) There are many butterfly houses that would no longer be able to exhibit the Monarch butterfly. These exhibits provide important public education and awareness of butterfly habitats and conditions.
- 2) Teachers would no longer be able to raise Monarchs with students in classrooms. Many school programs based on helping the Monarch would have to be canceled.
- 3) Butterfly farmers, hobbyists and scientific researchers would no longer be able to raise butterflies for release and research. Butterfly farming and a strong breeding program could become critical for this species' survival if wild populations continue to drop.

Because of these concerns, I ask that the Monarch butterfly (*Danausplexippusplexippus*) not be listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, unless an exemption is made for butterfly exhibits, educational institutions, and butterfly farmers. I strongly encourage an exemption instead of a permit process for these groups. They are already burdened with their current duties, and I do not believe we should add a new administrative or financial hardship.

The Monarch butterfly needs everyone working together to help save habitat and educate the public. We need to support those groups already working on the front lines to help save this species.

Sincerely,


John McMillan
Commissioner

JM:cw