

Resolution:

**Whereas:**

The Montgomery County Beekeepers Association recognizes that the USDA is proposing the introduction of the Chinese Flea Beetle into the United States to control (eradicate) the Chinese Tallow tree.

Even though the "Chinese Tallow" tree is an invasive species which can suppress native growth and transform some habitats into monospecific tallow forests, the "Chinese Tallow" has been widely used as an "ornamental shrub" in the landscaping of private property in the United States for over 200 years.

More importantly to the beekeeping community, it is the main floral source for honey production along the entire Gulf Coast including Texas and provides a secondary floral source within the rest of the state.

The loss of this floral source would gravely affect honey production in Texas and other states causing a great financial loss to ALL honey producing operations.

The effects of eradicating a species after 200 years within the US ecosystem are largely unknown plus with no known natural US predators to control this insect, the possible attacks on other plants, trees, or agricultural crops could be devastating.

In addition, the eradication of the Chinese Tallow species could well be interpreted as a direct violation of the core tenants of an existing Presidential memorandum:

- "to ensure the sustainability of our food production systems, avoid additional economic impact on the agricultural sector and protect the health of the environment."
- "The Departments of Agriculture and the Interior shall...develop best management practices for executive departments and agencies to enhance pollinator habitat on Federal Lands"

Therefore,

**Be it resolved:**

The Montgomery County Beekeepers Association strongly opposes the control or eradication of the "Chinese Tallow" tree and is vehemently against the use of the "Chinese Flea Beetle" as a means to do so.