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MEMORANDUM

TO: The City of Carbondale City Council Members / Gary Williams, City Manager

FROM: City of Carbondale Sustainability Commission

RE: City Council Support for Pollinator Habitat: Mayors’ Monarch Pledge

DATE: November 17th, 2022

Our community recognizes that pollinator populations have suffered significant decline due to habitat fragmentation, threatening the security and the resiliency of our food system. With the most recent placement of the Monarch butterfly on the IUCN Red List, the City of Carbondale is renewing its commitment to assuring that pollinator-supportive landscaping is prioritized in all current and future developments.

With this memorandum, the Carbondale Sustainability Commission is requesting that the City Council approve and the Mayor sign the National Wildlife Federation [Mayors’ Monarch Pledge](#) for the coming year, 2023. This pledge will commit the City of Carbondale to tasking staff with the selection and implementation of specific actions that will increase the habitat for pollinators necessary for the resilience of our community and our ecosystem.

Through this commitment, Carbondale will join hundreds of other cities that have signed similar pledges, following models set forth by the National Wildlife Federation and other environmental organizations collaborating on this effort. This commitment will advance implementation of the roadmap of actions set forth in the Natural Solutions section of our Commission’s comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan, approved by the City Council in Spring 2022. Such actions are necessary steps for achieving carbon neutrality or negative carbon

emissions for all city-owned lands, natural spaces, and waters; maximized community benefits; and sustained biodiversity and ecosystem functions, priorities essential to the Action Plan.

The National Wildlife Federation states, “By taking the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, you are committing to both restore habitat in your community and encourage your residents to do the same. Before pledging, read the [Mayors' Monarch Pledge](#) language and review the [list of action items](#). Mayors or their staff point of contact can [take the pledge online](#) between December 1 and March 31 each year. Mayors will commit to at least three action items (out of 30) that your community will initiate throughout the year to support monarch conservation. Mayors who complete eight or more actions will receive special recognition and become a member of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge Leadership Circle and those that complete 24 or more actions will become a Monarch Champion City.”

The Sustainability Commission, according to the bylaws of our commission, is issuing this memo as a recommendation to the City Council of Carbondale - that the City of Carbondale become a signatory of the National Wildlife Federation Mayors' Monarch Pledge and task city staff with the implementation of actions that bolster pollinator habitat and our community's resilience within the new year of 2023.