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A MEMORIAL

URGING STATE AGENCIES TO PROTECT DECLINING BEE POPULATIONS;
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE "BEE AWARE DAY" TO PROMOTE
EDUCATION ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES TO NEW MEXICO'S
ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

WHEREAS, bees pollinate one-third of the food that we
eat, including apples, squash, alfalfa and other crops vital
to New Mexico's economy; and

WHEREAS, native and commercial bee populations are
drastically declining due to disease, habitat loss and the
use of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, research also indicates that biodiversity plays
an essential role in the health of bee colonies; and

WHEREAS, without bees, the estimated cost of having
people pollinate crops would be approximately fifteen billion
dollars (\$15,000,000,000) annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico traditionally eat
sopaipillas with honey, which is becoming scarcer and
costlier due to declining bee populations, and many natural
remedies used by New Mexicans contain honey; and

WHEREAS, bees are important to New Mexico, not just for
honey or medicine, or even as pollinators of crops, but
because they are a vital part our ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, pollinator gardens can be established to
include pollinator-friendly plants, human-made bee colony
structures, bee baths and drip irrigation in order to provide
areas where bees can flourish and repopulate; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of agriculture is
currently conducting a study on the health of commercial bee

1 populations in our state; and

2 WHEREAS, Albert Einstein said that if bees disappear,
3 humans would have only four years of life left on earth; and

4 WHEREAS, bees need help and protection, as they do not
5 have a voice of their own;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all state agencies be requested to
8 set an example and use bee-friendly plants in all landscaping
9 projects; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state land management
11 agencies designate areas of these lands to serve as
12 pollinator gardens and educate the public about how
13 individuals and communities can support native and commercial
14 bees; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
16 agriculture send a report on its study of commercial bee
17 populations in New Mexico to the appropriate legislative
18 interim committee by November 30, 2016; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested
20 to issue a proclamation declaring a "Bee Aware Day" to
21 promote education about the importance of bees to the state;
22 and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the governor, the commissioner of public
25 lands, the department of game and fish, the state parks
division and the forestry division of the energy, minerals
and natural resources department, the department of
transportation and the New Mexico department of
agriculture. _____