

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 RECOGNIZING THE LEGISLATURE'S SUPPORT FOR A VOLUNTARY
3 POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANT LABELING PROJECT AT LOCAL NURSERIES
4 AROUND THE STATE; REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE THE
5 SECOND BEE AWARE DAY; REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE
6 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SERVICE TO DESIGNATE AN AREA AT THE STATE
7 CAPITOL AS A POLLINATOR GARDEN TO HELP EDUCATE THE PUBLIC
8 ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS TO HUMANS.

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10 WHEREAS, the world's food supply depends on animal and
11 insect pollinators to pollinate three-fourths of the crop
12 plants grown; and

13 WHEREAS, bees pollinate one-third of the food eaten
14 worldwide, or every third mouthful of food, including apples,
15 squash, watermelon and other crops important to New Mexico's
16 residents; and

17 WHEREAS, millions of acres of food in New Mexico rely on
18 bees and other pollinators for pollination; and

19 WHEREAS, native and commercial bee populations are
20 drastically declining across the country and the world, and
21 other pollinators such as bats, butterflies and beetles are
22 also declining; and

23 WHEREAS, commercial bee colony loss in New Mexico has
24 been reported at thirty percent, which is below the national
25 average of thirty-nine percent, but double the accepted loss

1 of fifteen percent; and

2 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of agriculture
3 reports that habitat loss and disease are the main reasons
4 that commercial bees are declining in New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, without bees and other pollinators, the
6 estimated cost of having people pollinate crops would be
7 approximately twenty billion dollars (\$20,000,000,000)
8 annually in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, the cash value of commercial bees in New Mexico
10 is between one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and two million
11 dollars (\$2,000,000), not including pollination; and

12 WHEREAS, planting pollinator-friendly plants attracts
13 bees and other pollinators and encourages pollination and
14 protection of their populations; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2016, the wild friends program helped to
16 pass Senate Memorial 103, which asked state agencies to set
17 an example by using bee-friendly plants in their landscaping
18 and to designate pollinator-friendly gardens; and

19 WHEREAS, the wild friends program, the New Mexico
20 department of agriculture, New Mexico state university and
21 the New Mexico beekeepers association are working together to
22 protect bees and other pollinators; and

23 WHEREAS, a voluntary pollinator-friendly plant labeling
24 project for local plant nurseries could be the next step to
25 increase habitat by helping farmers, landowners and

1 homeowners understand what bees and other pollinators do for
2 humans and to encourage them to buy or grow
3 pollinator-friendly plants; and

4 WHEREAS, youth want a healthier, tastier, more beautiful
5 and colorful state with honey, fruits and vegetables and
6 flowering plants; and

7 WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators need help, as they
8 do not have a voice of their own;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
10 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the implementation of a
11 voluntary statewide pollinator-friendly plant labeling
12 project and request that, within available resources, the
13 New Mexico department of agriculture provide technical
14 support to the wild friends program of the university of
15 New Mexico school of law, the New Mexico beekeepers
16 association and the New Mexico chapter of the Colorado
17 nursery and greenhouse association as they work to implement
18 the project; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, within available resources,
20 the New Mexico department of agriculture be requested to
21 continue its collaborative efforts relating to the health of
22 bees and other pollinators in New Mexico; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the director of the
24 legislative council service be requested to designate an area
25 at the state capitol as a pollinator garden to help educate

1 the public about the importance of bees and other pollinators
2 to humans; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
4 issue a proclamation declaring the second Bee Aware Day
5 during the school year to further educate the public about
6 the importance of bees to New Mexico; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the governor, the director of the legislative
9 council service, the New Mexico department of agriculture, the
10 wild friends program of the university of New Mexico school of
11 law, the New Mexico beekeepers association and the New Mexico
12 chapter of the Colorado nursery and greenhouse association.==

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