

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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