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SENATE MEMORIAL 9

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

INTRODUCED BY

Dede Feldman

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES, MUNICIPALITIES,  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, USING EXISTING  
RESOURCES, USE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTS IN LANDSCAPING  
PROJECTS.

WHEREAS, pollinator species are needed for the  
reproduction of seventy-five to ninety percent of the world's  
flowering plants and more than one hundred fifty human food  
crops, according to scientists; and

WHEREAS, pollinators are essential for New Mexico's  
agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, bees pollinate fifteen billion  
dollars (\$15,000,000,000) worth of crops, according to the  
United States department of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, bees are important pollinators of chile and other

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1 New Mexico products; and

2 WHEREAS, grazing animals are dependent on insect-  
3 pollinated legumes, such as alfalfa and clover, for forage; and

4 WHEREAS, pollinator species are essential to producing  
5 some of the crops that provide fiber and medicines; and

6 WHEREAS, flying insects, including bees and many species  
7 of butterflies, moths, beetles and flies, are the most common  
8 pollinators; and

9 WHEREAS, bats and many species of birds, including  
10 hummingbirds, are also important pollinators; and

11 WHEREAS, populations of pollinators, including honeybees  
12 and western bumblebees, have been declining over the past  
13 decade; and

14 WHEREAS, there is a widespread lack of understanding about  
15 the importance of pollination and pollinator species, and there  
16 is a great need to educate the public about the magnitude of  
17 the issue; and

18 WHEREAS, native plants tend to provide superior habitats  
19 for native pollinators; and

20 WHEREAS, the unique flora and fauna of New Mexico attract  
21 tourism and bring income to the state and could be affected by  
22 the loss of pollinators, which help create and preserve New  
23 Mexico's beauty; and

24 WHEREAS, yucca moths are the only insects that pollinate  
25 New Mexico's state flower; and

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1           WHEREAS, pollinator habitats tend to be degraded or  
2 reduced by development, pesticide use and other human  
3 activities; and

4           WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators could ultimately threaten  
5 global food webs, biodiversity and human life; and

6           WHEREAS, New Mexico is rich in its variety of native  
7 cultures and pollinators, and pollinated plants are significant  
8 to native peoples for cultural symbolism, foods and plant  
9 products; traditional medicines; and plant-based dyes; and

10          WHEREAS, New Mexicans should be encouraged to plant a  
11 diversity of native flowers and plants to maximize blooming  
12 throughout the growing season and to maximize support of  
13 pollinator diversity; and

14          WHEREAS, everyone's future flies on the wings of  
15 pollinators; and

16          WHEREAS, Mission Avenue elementary school wild friends  
17 challenge every school in New Mexico to build and design their  
18 own self-sustaining flower beds or cactus gardens or to plant  
19 native bushes on their campuses;

20          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
21 OF NEW MEXICO that state and county agencies, municipalities,  
22 public schools, colleges and universities be requested to use  
23 pollinator-friendly plants, including native eco-region  
24 specific plant mixtures, in landscaping projects to create  
25 pollinator habitats; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and county agencies,  
2 municipalities, public schools, colleges and universities be  
3 requested to consider providing educational signs explaining  
4 what is being done on site to support pollinators; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to  
6 designate a New Mexico pollinator appreciation week with  
7 appropriate ceremonies and activities that include encouraging  
8 the public to take part in planting and preserving native plant  
9 species; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and county agencies,  
11 municipalities, public schools, colleges and universities be  
12 requested to collaborate with scientists and organizations such  
13 as the North American pollinator protection campaign to study  
14 and plan pollinator conservation projects for New Mexico; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the office of the governor, the commissioner of  
17 public lands, the New Mexico department of agriculture, the  
18 economic development department, the energy, minerals and  
19 natural resources department, the department of game and fish,  
20 the general services department, the higher education  
21 department, the public education department, the department of  
22 transportation, the New Mexico association of counties and the  
23 New Mexico municipal league.