

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 4

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 RECOGNIZING THE LEGISLATURE'S SUPPORT FOR A VOLUNTARY
12 POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANT LABELING PROJECT AT LOCAL NURSERIES
13 AROUND THE STATE; REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE THE SECOND
14 BEE AWARE DAY; REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE
15 COUNCIL SERVICE TO DESIGNATE AN AREA AT THE STATE CAPITOL AS A
16 POLLINATOR GARDEN TO HELP EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE
17 IMPORTANCE OF BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS TO HUMANS.

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

22 WHEREAS, bees pollinate one-third of the food eaten
23 worldwide, or every third mouthful of food, including apples,
24 squash, watermelon and other crops important to New Mexico's
25 residents; and

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1 WHEREAS, thousands of acres of food in New Mexico rely on
2 bees and other pollinators for pollination; and

3 WHEREAS, native and commercial bee populations are
4 drastically declining across the country and the world, and
5 other pollinators such as bats, butterflies and beetles are
6 also declining; and

7 WHEREAS, commercial bee colony loss in New Mexico has been
8 reported at thirty percent, which is below the national average
9 of thirty-nine percent, but double the accepted loss of fifteen
10 percent; and

11 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of agriculture reports
12 that habitat loss and disease are the main reasons that
13 commercial bees are declining in New Mexico; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, planting pollinator-friendly plants attracts bees
22 and other pollinators and encourages pollination and protection
23 of their populations; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2016, the wild friends program helped to pass
25 Senate Memorial 103, which asked state agencies to set an

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1 example by using bee-friendly plants in their landscaping and
2 to designate pollinator-friendly gardens; and

3 WHEREAS, the wild friends program, the New Mexico
4 department of agriculture, New Mexico state university and the
5 New Mexico beekeepers association are working together to
6 protect bees and other pollinators; and

7 WHEREAS, a voluntary pollinator-friendly plant labeling
8 project for local plant nurseries could be the next step to
9 increase habitat by helping farmers, landowners and homeowners
10 understand what bees and other pollinators do for humans and to
11 encourage them to buy or grow pollinator-friendly plants; and

12 WHEREAS, youth want a healthier, tastier, more beautiful
13 and colorful state with honey, fruits and vegetables and
14 flowering plants; and

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

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it support the implementation of a
19 voluntary statewide pollinator-friendly plant labeling project
20 and request that, within available resources, the New Mexico
21 department of agriculture provide technical support to the wild
22 friends program of the university of New Mexico school of law,
23 the New Mexico beekeepers association and the New Mexico
24 chapter of the Colorado nursery and greenhouse association as
25 they work to implement the project; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, within available resources,
2 the New Mexico department of agriculture be requested to
3 continue its collaborative efforts relating to the health of
4 bees and other pollinators in New Mexico; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the director of the
6 legislative council service be requested to designate an area
7 at the state capitol as a pollinator garden to help educate the
8 public about the importance of bees and other pollinators to
9 humans; and

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

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the governor, the director of the legislative
16 council service, the New Mexico department of agriculture, the
17 wild friends program of the university of New Mexico school of
18 law, the New Mexico beekeepers association and the New Mexico
19 chapter of the Colorado nursery and greenhouse association.