

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A
3 WORKSHOP ABOUT INSECT IDENTIFICATION, ECOLOGY, MONITORING AND
4 MANAGEMENT AND TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT INSECTS.
5

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a beautiful state that is rich in
7 natural resources and filled with a wide variety of plants
8 and animals, including insects, which make up over one-half
9 of the more than one million five hundred thousand identified
10 animal species on the planet; and

11 WHEREAS, insects, such as butterflies, bees, ants and
12 beetles, are six-legged invertebrates with three body
13 segments, antennae, compound eyes and an exoskeleton; and

14 WHEREAS, insects provide vital functions in ecosystems,
15 including being the primary pollinators of one-third of food
16 for global crop production, decomposing waste, eliminating
17 pests, protecting soil health, especially in arid regions
18 where decomposition is slow, and serving as food for many
19 species; as one student said, "Bugs help the earth by helping
20 the flowers and our food grow"; and

21 WHEREAS, many people misunderstand insects and see
22 insects as pests, even though most are harmless and play an
23 important ecological role; as one student said, "[Sometimes]
24 people are fearful and disgusted with insects because they
25 are uneducated about their importance", and as another

1 student said, "Insects are misunderstood because they look
2 gross and scary"; and

3 WHEREAS, insects are important to New Mexico's
4 communities, including indigenous communities, for everything
5 from ecosystem health to healthy soil for farming; as one
6 class said, "Insects are used to help our people [Navajo]
7 with protein and medicine", and another student emphasized
8 that "Without insects, the food chain could start to crumble
9 and have a lasting effect on humans"; and

10 WHEREAS, insects play critical ecological roles in every
11 ecosystem, and in the words of two students, "Insects weave
12 life through New Mexico's wild places", and "Insects make our
13 world a better place by maintaining balance in nature"; and

14 WHEREAS, scientists are worried about decreasing insect
15 populations due to habitat loss, pollution, pesticides,
16 invasive species and climate change, which threaten the
17 functioning and health of natural ecosystems; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2025, a law amended the statutory definition
19 of "wildlife" to include invertebrates such as insects; and

20 WHEREAS, state land management agencies manage over nine
21 million acres of land in New Mexico and should have staff who
22 are knowledgeable about insects in the state; and

23 WHEREAS, it is important for state land management
24 agencies to study insects, which will enable the agencies to
25 make informed decisions about land management and wildlife

1 and to share their knowledge with the public so that, as one
2 student said, "people understand the value of insects and how
3 everyday actions can help protect them". Another student
4 added that "knowing more about insects might help people make
5 better choices about how they treat the environment"; and

6 WHEREAS, the wild friends program, a civics and science
7 education program for youth housed at the university of
8 New Mexico school of law; the university of New Mexico museum
9 of southwestern biology, a research and teaching facility
10 about biological diversity and the natural environment; and
11 the Xerces society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the
12 conservation of invertebrates and their habitats, have
13 offered to sponsor a workshop for interested agencies about
14 insect identification, ecology, monitoring and management in
15 the spring of 2026; and

16 WHEREAS, education is important, in the words of some
17 students, "to show how cool insects are and why people should
18 protect them instead of assuming insects are gross", and
19 because "teaching others helps reduce fear and misinformation
20 about insects and most people are more likely to protect what
21 they understand"; and

22 WHEREAS, education can help the public learn how to
23 protect beneficial insects by taking actions such as avoiding
24 harmful pesticides, planting native plants of different
25 heights for food and shelter, providing water, turning off

1 artificial lights at night and leaving some leaves on the
2 ground in the fall and through the winter; and

3 WHEREAS, education can help, as a student eloquently
4 stated, "to protect all the creatures big and small that make
5 this the land of enchantment while at the same time ensuring
6 that many future generations are able to enjoy the beauty
7 that comes to us thanks to these tiny creatures who work
8 diligently behind the scenes"; and

9 WHEREAS, the importance of insects in ecosystems across
10 New Mexico and the role that the public and state agencies
11 can play in helping to protect them is widely recognized;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of game and fish, the
14 state land office, the state parks division and the forestry
15 division of the energy, minerals and natural resources
16 department, the New Mexico department of agriculture, the
17 department of transportation and other interested agencies be
18 requested to participate in a workshop about insect
19 identification, ecology, monitoring and management, sponsored
20 by the wild friends program in conjunction with the museum of
21 southwestern biology and the Xerces society; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these state agencies be
23 encouraged to disseminate educational information about
24 insects, including materials designed by students in the wild
25 friends program; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the department of game and fish, the state land
3 office, the state parks division and the forestry division of
4 the energy, minerals and natural resources department, the
5 New Mexico department of agriculture and the department of
6 transportation for appropriate distribution. _____

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