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HOUSE MEMORIAL 26

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, insects provide vital functions in ecosystems, including being the primary pollinators of one-third of food for global crop production, decomposing waste, eliminating

1 pests, protecting soil health, especially in arid regions where
2 decomposition is slow, and serving as food for many species; as
3 one student said, "Bugs help the earth by helping the flowers
4 and our food grow"; and

5 WHEREAS, many people misunderstand insects and see insects
6 as pests, even though most are harmless and play an important
7 ecological role; as one student said, "[Sometimes] people are
8 fearful and disgusted with insects because they are uneducated
9 about their importance", and as another student said, "Insects
10 are misunderstood because they look gross and scary"; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, scientists are worried about decreasing insect
23 populations due to habitat loss, pollution, pesticides,
24 invasive species and climate change, which threaten the
25 functioning and health of natural ecosystems; and

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

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

6 WHEREAS, it is important for state land management
7 agencies to study insects, which will enable the agencies to
8 make informed decisions about land management and wildlife and
9 to share their knowledge with the public so that, as one
10 student said, "people understand the value of insects and how
11 everyday actions can help protect them". Another student added
12 that "knowing more about insects might help people make better
13 choices about how they treat the environment"; and

14 WHEREAS, the wild friends program, a civics and science
15 education program for youth housed at the university of New
16 Mexico school of law; the university of New Mexico museum of
17 southwestern biology, a research and teaching facility about
18 biological diversity and the natural environment; and the
19 Xerces society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the
20 conservation of invertebrates and their habitats, have offered
21 to sponsor a workshop for interested agencies about insect
22 identification, ecology, monitoring and management in the
23 spring of 2026; and

24 WHEREAS, education is important, in the words of some
25 students, "to show how cool insects are and why people should

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1 protect them instead of assuming insects are gross", and
2 because "teaching others helps reduce fear and misinformation
3 about insects and most people are more likely to protect what
4 they understand"; and

5 WHEREAS, education can help the public learn how to
6 protect beneficial insects by taking actions such as avoiding
7 harmful pesticides, planting native plants of different heights
8 for food and shelter, providing water, turning off artificial
9 lights at night and leaving some leaves on the ground in the
10 fall and through the winter; and

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

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

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department
22 of game and fish, the state land office, the state parks
23 division and the forestry division of the energy, minerals and
24 natural resources department, the New Mexico department of
25 agriculture, the department of transportation and other

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1 interested agencies be requested to participate in a workshop
2 about insect identification, ecology, monitoring and
3 management, sponsored by the wild friends program in
4 conjunction with the museum of southwestern biology and the
5 Xerces society; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these state agencies be
7 encouraged to disseminate educational information about
8 insects, including materials designed by students in the wild
9 friends program; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the department of game and fish, the state land
12 office, the state parks division and the forestry division of
13 the energy, minerals and natural resources department, the New
14 Mexico department of agriculture and the department of
15 transportation for appropriate distribution.