

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO
3 CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF A
4 POLLINATOR PROTECTION PLAN AS PROPOSED BY THE NEW MEXICO
5 BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION AND ASSESS WAYS TO PROTECT POLLINATORS
6 THROUGH COMMUNITY EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND DATA COLLECTION.
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8 WHEREAS, pollinators are an integral part of agriculture
9 and have a direct effect on New Mexico's agricultural
10 economy; and

11 WHEREAS, urban beekeeping continues to increase in
12 popularity in New Mexico and elsewhere; and

13 WHEREAS, managed bees are an integral part of urban
14 garden success; and

15 WHEREAS, poor bee husbandry poses an increased risk to
16 bees managed for commercial and noncommercial purposes; and

17 WHEREAS, honey bee disease spread is impossible to track
18 without data collection and reporting; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico boasts approximately two thousand
20 diverse pollinator species, including three hundred species
21 of butterflies and approximately one thousand four hundred
22 species of bees; and

23 WHEREAS, increasing habitat loss, pesticide use,
24 diseases, invasive species, drought and climate change are
25 all impacting New Mexico pollinators; and

1 WHEREAS, the severity of drought conditions due to
2 rising temperatures is of particular concern; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico growers rely on both managed and
4 feral populations of pollinators, honey bees being the most
5 common, but of concern are studies showing that many
6 pollinating insect populations are in decline; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to many known species of
8 pollinators due to numerous specialized habitats and
9 ecosystems, yet New Mexico's high elevation and semi-arid
10 landscapes make it a challenging region for human, animal and
11 plant life;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New
14 Mexico department of agriculture be requested to convene a
15 working group to develop a pollinator protection plan and
16 assess ways to protect pollinators through community
17 education, outreach and data collection; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
19 composed of representatives of the New Mexico department of
20 agriculture, the New Mexico food and agriculture policy
21 council, the New Mexico beekeepers association and other
22 interested parties; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
24 requested to develop recommendations for assessing the number
25 of urban and rural beekeepers across the state to determine

1 the number of hives in support of establishing an outreach
2 and educational program; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
4 requested to develop recommendations for continual assessment
5 of the number of urban and rural beekeepers across the state
6 and to address numbers of hives in support of establishing an
7 outreach, data gathering and educational program; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
9 requested to create educational material based on the
10 pollinator protection plan regarding best practices for
11 farmers, land stewards, pesticide applicators and beekeepers;
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
14 requested to report its recommendations to the appropriate
15 interim legislative committees dealing with conservation and
16 environmental issues by October 1, 2024; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of
19 agriculture, the governing board chair of the New Mexico food
20 and agriculture policy council and the secretary of the New
21 Mexico beekeepers association.

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