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SENATE MEMORIAL 43

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales and Carrie Hamblen

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE
A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF A POLLINATOR
PROTECTION PLAN AS PROPOSED BY THE NEW MEXICO BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION AND ASSESS WAYS TO PROTECT POLLINATORS THROUGH
COMMUNITY EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND DATA COLLECTION.

WHEREAS, pollinators are an integral part of agriculture
and have a direct effect on New Mexico's agricultural economy;
and

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

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

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

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

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico boasts approximately two thousand
4 diverse pollinator species, including three hundred species of
5 butterflies and approximately one thousand four hundred species
6 of bees; and

7 WHEREAS, increasing habitat loss, pesticide use, diseases,
8 invasive species, drought and climate change are all impacting
9 New Mexico pollinators; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to many known species of
17 pollinators due to numerous specialized habitats and
18 ecosystems, yet New Mexico's high elevation and semi-arid
19 landscapes make it a challenging region for human, animal and
20 plant life;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of agriculture be
23 requested to convene a working group to consider acceptance of
24 a pollinator protection plan as proposed by the New Mexico
25 beekeepers association and assess ways to protect pollinators

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1 through community education, outreach and data collection; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be composed
3 of representatives of the New Mexico department of agriculture,
4 the New Mexico food and agriculture policy council and the New
5 Mexico beekeepers association; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
7 to develop recommendations for assessing the number of urban
8 and rural beekeepers across the state to determine the number
9 of hives in support of establishing an outreach and educational
10 program; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
12 to develop recommendations for continual assessment of the
13 number of urban and rural beekeepers across the state and to
14 address numbers of hives in support of establishing an
15 outreach, data gathering and educational program; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
17 to create educational material based on the pollinator
18 protection plan regarding best practices for farmers, land
19 stewards, pesticide applicators and beekeepers; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
21 to report its recommendations to the appropriate interim
22 legislative committees dealing with conservation and
23 environmental issues by October 1, 2023; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of

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1 agriculture, the governing board chair of the New Mexico food
2 and agriculture council and the secretary of the New Mexico
3 beekeepers association.

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