

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 103

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mimi Stewart

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 URGING STATE AGENCIES TO PROTECT DECLINING BEE POPULATIONS;
12 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE "BEE AWARE DAY" TO PROMOTE
13 EDUCATION ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES TO NEW MEXICO'S ECONOMY
14 AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

15
16 WHEREAS, bees pollinate one-third of the food that we eat,
17 including apples, squash, alfalfa and other crops vital to New
18 Mexico's economy; and

19 WHEREAS, native and commercial bee populations are
20 drastically declining due to disease, habitat loss and the use
21 of pesticides; and

22 WHEREAS, research also indicates that biodiversity plays
23 an essential role in the health of bee colonies; and

24 WHEREAS, without bees, the estimated cost of having people
25 pollinate crops would be approximately fifteen billion dollars

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1 (\$15,000,000,000) annually in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico traditionally eat
3 sopaipillas with honey, which is becoming scarcer and costlier
4 due to declining bee populations, and many natural remedies
5 used by New Mexicans contain honey; and

6 WHEREAS, bees are important to New Mexico, not just for
7 honey or medicine, or even as pollinators of crops, but because
8 they are a vital part our ecosystem; and

9 WHEREAS, pollinator gardens can be established to include
10 pollinator-friendly plants, human-made bee colony structures,
11 bee baths and drip irrigation in order to provide areas where
12 bees can flourish and repopulate; and

13 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of agriculture is
14 currently conducting a study on the health of commercial bee
15 populations in our state; and

16 WHEREAS, Albert Einstein said that if bees disappear,
17 humans would have only four years of life left on earth; and

18 WHEREAS, bees need help and protection, as they do not
19 have a voice of their own;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that all state agencies be requested to set an
22 example and use bee-friendly plants in all landscaping
23 projects; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state land management
25 agencies designate areas of these lands to serve as pollinator

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1 gardens and educate the public about how individuals and
2 communities can support native and commercial bees; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
4 agriculture send a report on its study of commercial bee
5 populations in New Mexico to the appropriate legislative
6 interim committee by November 30, 2016; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
8 issue a proclamation declaring a "Bee Aware Day" to promote
9 education about the importance of bees to the state; and

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