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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY WITH THE SUPPORT OF CONGRESS, FEDERAL AGENCIES AND STATE, LOCAL AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS; REQUESTING ALL PARTIES TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND TAKE ACTIONS TO PROTECT SPECIES AND HABITATS AND HELP FORESTALL THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY.

WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico have an important relationship with nature and have called on their local, state and federal governments to preserve and protect nature both within New Mexico and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is the home of approximately four thousand five hundred eighty-three known species, the fourth-highest native species richness of any state, and ranks second in the number of native mammals that are of ecological,

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1 spiritual, cultural, historic, recreational and scientific
2 value to the people of New Mexico and that need to be
3 protected, both now and for future generations; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the fourth-highest plant diversity
5 of any state, with more than two hundred thirty-five rare and
6 endangered plant species and one hundred nine species that
7 occur nowhere else in the world; and

8 WHEREAS, as of 2020, there are one hundred sixteen
9 wildlife species in New Mexico that are state-listed as
10 endangered or threatened, and there are over seventy wildlife
11 species in the state that are federally listed as endangered
12 under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

13 WHEREAS, many New Mexico pollinators, including native
14 bees and butterflies, are in decline and studies show declines
15 of sixty to eighty percent in insect populations, including
16 insect pollinators, in recent years; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico and the United States are facing an
18 unprecedented biodiversity crisis, largely driven by human
19 activity; and

20 WHEREAS, human-driven activities are significantly
21 damaging the earth's ecosystems by altering seventy-five
22 percent of the area of terrestrial environments and sixty-six
23 percent of marine environments; exploiting wildlife and plant
24 species; accelerating climate change; polluting air, land and
25 water; and introducing invasive species; and

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1 WHEREAS, human-driven activities are threatening
2 approximately one million species with extinction in the coming
3 decades, causing population sizes of wild species to decline by
4 an average of sixty-eight percent for mammals, birds, fish,
5 amphibians and reptiles, including loss of nearly three billion
6 birds in North America since 1970; and

7 WHEREAS, coordination at a global, national, regional,
8 state and local scale is necessary to address the biodiversity
9 crisis; and

10 WHEREAS, the decline of biodiversity disproportionately
11 impacts indigenous and other communities that rely on nature
12 for essential services, including Native Americans, who offer
13 unique perspectives and traditional ecological knowledge
14 critical to preserving biodiversity; and

15 WHEREAS, communities of color, low-income communities,
16 tribal communities and other populations that have been
17 systematically and deliberately targeted for siting
18 environmentally degrading activities and excluded from
19 conservation efforts face disproportionate impacts from
20 biodiversity loss; and

21 WHEREAS, there is no coordinating policy to maximize the
22 effectiveness of the federal government's conservation efforts
23 and collaboration with the states, local governments, tribes,
24 private landowners and other nongovernmental stakeholders; and

25 WHEREAS, the United States should play a leading role on

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1 the international stage in addressing the biodiversity crisis,
2 yet, unlike most other countries, the United States does not
3 have a national biodiversity strategy as part of the
4 intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and
5 ecosystem services;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature call on the federal
8 government to:

9 A. establish a national biodiversity strategy to
10 ensure the conservation and restoration of the biodiversity of
11 the United States; secure and restore the ecosystem services
12 provided by nature for current and future generations; set
13 necessary goals for protecting biodiversity in the coming
14 decades; promote social equity and justice in the conservation
15 of the country's biodiversity; coordinate the actions of
16 federal agencies to advance the conservation of biodiversity;
17 promote collaboration among the federal, state, local and
18 tribal governments, nongovernmental stakeholders, civil society
19 and international partners to advance conservation; and honor
20 the federal trust obligations to tribal nations and Native
21 Americans; and

22 B. develop the national biodiversity strategy with
23 significant public input and in collaboration with federal and
24 state agencies, including those in New Mexico, tribes,
25 communities of color, low-income communities, private

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1 landowners and other nongovernmental stakeholders; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the national biodiversity
3 strategy include direction to congress, federal agencies,
4 states, local governments and tribes:

5 A. supporting the national goal of conserving at
6 least thirty percent of United States lands and waters to
7 protect biodiversity by 2030, setting other goals necessary to
8 reduce the threats to biodiversity as indicated by the best
9 available scientific information; and

10 B. taking action to protect threatened, endangered
11 and at-risk species from further imperilment or extinction; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the president of the United States and the
14 president's cabinet secretaries, the governor of New Mexico,
15 the New Mexico congressional delegation and the United Nations
16 environment programme and division for sustainable development
17 goals.