

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 29

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Andy Nuñez

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP
A PESTICIDE-FREE CERTIFICATION FOR PECANS PRODUCED IN NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, pecans are the fourth most important crop in New
Mexico, with more than forty thousand acres under cultivation
accounting for nearly eight percent of total farm cash receipts
or one hundred thirty-three million dollars (\$133,000,000) in
2009; and

WHEREAS, pecan production in New Mexico accounts for one-
third of the pecan production in the nation; and

WHEREAS, approximately four hundred farmers in the state
produce pecans on farms ranging in size from small farms of two
to fifty acres, medium farms of fifty-one to two hundred acres
and large farms of two hundred one acres to more than two

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1 thousand acres; and

2 WHEREAS, the cost of production varies depending on the
3 size of the farm, with smaller-scale producers incurring higher
4 per-unit costs for production and receiving lower prices per
5 pound due to the smaller volumes of production sold to brokers
6 and buyers; and

7 WHEREAS, many small-scale producers use minimal amounts of
8 pesticides and observe more labor-intensive management
9 practices and biocontrols to limit crop damage, yet they
10 receive no recognition for these efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, in many other states, various certification
12 levels have been adopted for horticultural crops, including
13 fruit, nut and vegetable produce, with certifications ranging
14 from certified pesticide-free up to certified organic; and

15 WHEREAS, certification facilitates the sales of such
16 produce at a price premium over the same crops without
17 certification;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of
20 agriculture be requested to develop a pesticide-free
21 certification for pecans produced in New Mexico; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
23 agriculture report its progress to develop this certification
24 to the appropriate interim legislative committee by December 1,
25 2011; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of agriculture.