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SENATE MEMORIAL 43

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

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

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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