

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 6

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mimi Stewart

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10 A JOINT 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 such as neonicotinoids; and

22 WHEREAS, without bees, the estimated cost of having people
23 pollinate crops would be approximately fifteen billion dollars
24 (\$15,000,000,000) annually in the United States; and

25 WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico traditionally eat

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1 sopaipillas with honey, which is becoming scarcer and costlier
2 due to declining bee populations; and

3 WHEREAS, pollinator gardens can be established to include
4 pollinator-friendly plants, human-made bee colony structures,
5 bee baths and drip irrigation in order to provide areas where
6 bees can flourish and repopulate; and

7 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of agriculture is
8 currently conducting a study on the health of commercial bee
9 populations in our state; and

10 WHEREAS, bees are an important part of New Mexico's
11 ecosystem, providing the state with honey, crops and
12 biodiversity, making it imperative to protect bee populations;
13 and

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

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

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
19 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that all state agencies be requested to set
20 an example and use bee-friendly plants in all landscaping
21 projects and restrict the use of systemic insecticides such as
22 neonicotinoids; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state land management
24 agencies designate areas of these lands to serve as pollinator
25 gardens and educate the public about how individuals and

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1 communities can support native and commercial bees; and

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

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

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