

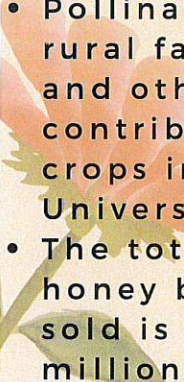
H.B. 224 1st Sub.

Pollinator Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Ashlee Matthews



Why Care about Pollinators?

- Utah is the Beehive State!
 - Honey bees are America's primary commercial pollinator, but over 4,000 types of native bees live in the United States
 - Pollinators are directly responsible for over one-third of the food we eat. Over 100 different varieties of fruits, vegetables, and essential crops depend on pollinators. These crops include alfalfa and forb-based hays used by Utah's meat and dairy industries.
 - Pollinators are critical to Utah's rural farming economy. Honeybees and other pollinating insects contributed \$29 billion to farm crops income in 2010. (Cornell University study)
 - The total annual value of U.S. honey bee products and services sold is approximately \$700 million.
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Why Pollinators are in Trouble

- With a warming climate, pesticides, loss of habitat, and diseases, pollinator populations are seeing drastic and disturbing declines.
- Western Bumblebee populations have declined 93 percent in the past 20 years. (Deseret News, July 2020)
- Monarch butterflies, nearing "endangered" status, have declined 99% in the past 40 years. (Butterfly Conservation, December 2020)
- In one survey, 25% of bee species were not recorded in global records since 1990, which is a potentially worrisome indicator of decline. (Independent, Jan 2021)
- The general public does not understand the gravity and urgency of the problem. (Science Daily)

What the Bill Does

- Creates a 3-year pilot program for the Department of Agriculture.
 - Public education campaign, workshops, planting guides to raise awareness about creating pollinator habitats.
 - Grants to cover 25% of costs for planting pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes on private or public land, not exceeding \$250,000 each fiscal year.
 - Supports pollinator programs for local governments and nonprofits.
 - Coordinates with federal, state, and local agencies to provide resources.
 - Fiscal note: \$390,000 ongoing.
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