



City of Golden

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4/18/2022

Members of the Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs,

The City Council of the Golden is expressing a position of support for SB22-199 Native Pollinating Insects Protection Study.

These bills would advance the ability of the City of Golden to reach its goals, stated through Council's adopted Strategic Action Plan and Legislative Policy Statement. Golden has an express interest in maintaining a community that is *sustainable*, vibrant, safe, affordable, and has a high quality of municipal services, and the Council believes that his bill would help the City to achieve its goals.

The City of Golden believes that maintaining the quality of the natural environment is of the utmost importance. Our community values itself on its efforts to promote local wildlife and native species. The City promotes residents replacing their monoculture lawns with native plants, supports a community garden, and maintains a City beekeeping program.

SB22-199 would support statewide efforts to maintain the native ecosystem that our communities depend on for food and recreation. The recent decline in pollinator populations across the world and in Colorado is a cause for alarm that must be addressed. The City of Golden believes that this bill will result in actionable recommendations to address this important issue.

The Golden City Council strongly supports SB-199. We urge you to support these bills through the committee review process and the general floor votes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

JJ Trout

District 1 Councilor, Mayor Pro-Tempore

Don Cameron

Ward 3 Councilor

Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
 04/19/2022 02:00 PM
 SB22-199 Native Pollinating Insects Protection Study
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Idelle Fisher For Self	I am in support of this bill to help us determine how best to protect our native pollinating insect populations and ecosystems.
Tanya Kern For Self	<p>I am a family doctor who has practiced in the Denver area for more than 20 years. I have an interest in the environment and I have been reading about the loss of insects world wide over the past 30 years due to pesticide use and habitat loss. Frankly I am alarmed about the extensive use of pesticides and how they are decimating insect populations which are the base of the food web for wildlife, and humans.</p> <p>I think we need to fully understand the affect of pesticides on our local pollinators and how that might affect human health. We need to fund this study because I do not think we understand fully what is causing the loss of our important pollinators. We need to understand how we can best make changes to limit loss of insects. We can not see the pesticides but their effect is real and harmful to the environment.</p>
Melody Daugherty For Manitou Pollinators	<p>Dear Committees,</p> <p>I am in full support of Bill SB22-199, Native Pollinating Insects Protection Study. I would like to ask all of you to wholeheartedly support Bill SB22-199 too.</p> <p>I am very concerned about Colorado's pollinators. We have been able to boast of over 900 different species of bees alone! However, as a result of erratic changes in temperatures, fires & storms can Colorado continue to boast of rich, varied and robust pollinators that include our native bees?? Pollinators are directly linked to our food security since 1 out of 3 bites of food is a result of pollinating services.</p> <p>Protecting our pollinators needs to start somewhere. This bill will provide for the means and metrics to provide the data required to learn how how our pollinators are doing and what they will need to continue to survive and thrive.</p> <p>Lets keep Colorado's bee population in the 900's since our Natural Resources and environments are responsible for such diversity, beauty and richness.</p> <p>Sincerely, Melody Daugherty Executive Director Manitou Pollinators</p>

Rita Berberian For Self	<p>Members of the committee, I am strongly in favor of SB22-199.</p> <p>As a former toxicologist, I can state that gaps in knowledge at all levels result in policies that threaten pollinators.</p> <p>Years ago, when I lived in Denver, the house across the street had an herbicide application done on its lawn. The next day, I saw numerous bees in my yard acting stunned, on the ground, clearly not okay. I called the Dept of Agriculture pesticide enforcement office to report this, and I was told, unequivocally, that it was an herbicide application, and since herbicides target plants, there was no issue, and the application across the street from my house could not have caused the effect on bees I was seeing. According to them, only insecticides could affect bees.</p> <p>We now KNOW this is wrong. Research tells us that some ‘inert’ ingredients in herbicides can actually KILL bees. So, while the active ingredient may, in fact, only target plants, that does not mean that spraying weeds with herbicides has no effect on bees and other pollinators. Pesticide products are composed of active ingredients plus many other “inert ingredients” that we now know may be toxic in their own right.</p> <p>There are plenty of gaps in knowledge all around, but since we don’t even know the status of pollinators in Colorado, let’s at least start there. Please support this bill. Thank you.</p>
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Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee
SUPPORT
SB22-199 Native Pollinating Insects Protection Study
Tuesday 4/19, 2022

Honorable Chairperson Coleman and members of the Committee; my name is Ingrid Moore, from Longmont. Although educated as a Biologist, I'm speaking on my own behalf in support of Senate Bill 22-199.

I will just stress the importance of this bill in the cause to save pollinators and, along with them, most insects, birds, and, subsequently, humans. I say this will help save humans because the potential decline of pollinators has direct consequences for the food chain and human survival.

This bill is an important step toward developing those policies. The bill funds a multi-agency study to gather data about the current state of Colorado's diverse pollinator species, challenges in studying them, and provide recommendations for a statewide strategy to protect and stabilize pollinator populations. The report will assist land managers across the state to target resources and practices to protect Colorado's critical pollinators most efficiently and effectively.

Thinking that we can't afford a study of this kind would be penny-wise and pound foolish. Native pollinators alone provide \$4 billion/year in economic value to U.S. agriculture, so this is a wise investment of a few dollars to save many. The value of what will be lost is at stake.

Right now, Colorado lacks resources to coordinate our agencies statewide for adequate planning and protection for pollinators, and there's not enough political will to protect human health as we consider pesticide use. The provisions in this bill will push progress to address pesticide risks and protection of people, pollinators and soils.

I thank the bill's sponsors Senators Jacquez Lewis and Priola, and Representatives Kipp and Froelich for carrying this bill, and I respectfully ask the members of the committee for a YES vote.

Thank you!
Ingrid Moore
Longmont, CO
303-717-0576

<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/csp2.80>

Conservation Science and Practice

A Journal of the Society for Conservation Biology

Matthew L. Forister, Emma M. Pelton, Scott H. Black

First published: 22 June 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.80> Citations: 15

A Few Related Sources:

PERSPECTIVES AND NOTES

Open Access

Declines in insect abundance and diversity: We know enough to act now

Matthew L. Forister, Emma M. Pelton, Scott H. Black

First published: 22 June 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.80> Citations: 15

Abstract

Recent regional reports and trends in biomonitoring suggest that insects are experiencing a multicontinental crisis that is apparent as reductions in abundance, diversity, and biomass. Given the centrality of insects to terrestrial ecosystems and the food chain that supports humans, the importance of addressing these declines cannot be overstated. The scientific community has understandably been focused on establishing the breadth and depth of the phenomenon and on documenting factors causing insect declines. In parallel with ongoing research, it is now time for the development of a policy consensus that will allow for a swift societal response. **We point out that this response need not wait for full resolution of the many physiological, behavioral, and demographic aspects of declining insect populations. To these ends, we suggest primary policy goals summarized at scales from nations to farms to homes.**

While government and legislative action is most definitely needed (see Policy Recommendations section above), it is also the case that **the actions of individual humans can have an immediate impact**. Even a backyard or apartment balcony can be an important stopover for the smallest of animals upon which we all depend.

The Value of Pollinators to the Ecosystem and our Economy

<https://www.bayer.com/en/agriculture/article/economic-value-pollinators>

\$4 Billion

National Science Foundation – News, February 18, 2021

https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=302140&org=NSF&from=news

The economic value of insect pollinators is much higher than previously thought, according to researchers at the [University of Pittsburgh](#) and Penn State University. The team also found that areas that are economically most reliant on insect pollinators are the same areas where pollinator habitat and forage quality are poor.

Science News - February 3, 2021

The Business of Bees – Source University of Pittsburgh

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/02/210203144555.htm>

One key finding is that the economic value that is dependent on insect pollination totaled \$34 billion in 2012, much higher than previously thought. The team looked at 2012 because it was the most recent year for which data were available.