

13-0002-5134

OCT 23 2013

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in just the past few years, "colony collapse disorder" (CCD) has been plaguing bees across the country, leading to massive population die-offs. Between the end of 2012 and the end of 2013, U.S. beekeepers lost an average of 45 percent of their colonies, which threatens not only their livelihoods, but the very existence of one of the world's most vital pollinators and, by extension, the long-term security of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, pollination services are a huge component of U.S. agriculture worth \$20-30 billion annually. Bees, in particular, are absolutely necessary for the production of a third of the food produced in North America, including almonds, avocados, cranberries, apples and much more. Bee-pollinated crops provide nearly all of our dietary Vitamin A, Vitamin E and over half of the calcium and fluoride we consume. Additionally, about one-third of iron in our diets is provided by bee-pollinated crops, including fruits and nuts; and

WHEREAS, California's biggest agricultural export, its \$4 billion almond industry, depends on pollinators for the success of the crop which makes up 84 percent of global almond production. Without California's almonds, there would be a tremendous shortage of almonds worldwide; and

WHEREAS, scientists have linked the symptoms of CCD with the abundant use of pesticides, specifically the neonicotinoid class. Exposure to these systemic insecticides over time can lead to sublethal effects like impaired foraging and feeding, weakened immunity to diseases and pests and stunted development; and

WHEREAS, the European Union has enacted a ban on the major neonicotinoids in an effort to protect pollinators. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that neonicotinoids posed a "high acute risk" to pollinators and that more research must be conducted to explore precisely how these chemicals are connected to loss of bee colonies; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative John Conyers, Jr's "Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013" (H.R. 2692) would require the EPA to suspend the use of four of the pesticides belonging to the neonicotinoids class (imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotafuran) until their safety can be determined. The bill would also charge the EPA with monitoring bee health and preparing an annual report on the status of bees in the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORT for the "Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013" (H.R. 2692) in order to protect the health of America's pollinators and, by extension, our food supply.

PRESENTED BY Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

Mike Bonin
MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

Mitch O'Farrell
MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

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OCT 23 2013

SECONDED BY [Signature]

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