

House Finance

03/26/2026

HB26-1132 Practices to Support Pollinators

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Ingrid Moore For themselves</p>	<p>I strongly support this bill - please vote YES to pass it out of this committee.</p> <p>Implementing sustainable, restorative practices requires some time to transition away from an entire management system based on intensive chemical and soil-disrupting methods. The change requires a paradigm shift in policy that has to overcome the inertia of the status quo. I am asking you to enable this shift!</p> <p>This bill proposes an INVESTMENT, not a cost, that will provide sustainable benefits in the long run. It will improve Colorado's ecosystem resilience, conserve water resources, and support declining wildlife species by protecting Colorado's biodiversity and pollinator populations by increasing native plant habitats on state lands.</p> <p>The coordinated approach among state agencies could reduce costs through collective purchasing power while supporting local nurseries and the native plant industry, which is becoming an increasingly significant market.</p> <p>These are all goals that cannot be reached by following current practices. The state's recent designation of pollinators as wildlife instills a responsibility to manage in favor of these animals.</p> <p>Please vote YES on this bill!</p>
<p>Roland Halpern For Colorado Voters for Animals</p>	<p>My name is Roland Halpern and I am the executive director for Colorado Voters for Animals.</p> <p>Colorado Voters for Animals is in strong support of House Bill 26-1132, which increases pollinator habitat on state lands by prioritizing</p>

	<p>ecoregionally specific, Colorado-sourced native plants in state vegetation projects.</p> <p>This bill matters because it protects the entire food chain—“not just honeybees.”</p> <p>Native plants are the foundation of habitat and food for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife, and many of these species are in decline. When pollinators decline, it doesn’t stop at honeybees: it ripples upward through insects, birds, small mammals, and the predators that rely on them—while also reducing pollination services that agriculture and healthy ecosystems depend on.</p> <p>This bill responds directly to Colorado’s own 2022 collaborative study on native pollinating insects, which concluded pollinator status in Colorado is tenuous and identified habitat loss and land-management practices as major drivers. The study emphasized that increasing native plants is our biggest opportunity to sustain pollinators, especially in agricultural and urban habitats.</p> <p>Just as importantly, this bill is a water conservation bill, critical right now given our pending drought conditions from climate change and low snowpack.</p> <p>The legislative declaration is explicit: increasing the availability and diversity of native plant materials used in landscaping and restoration helps conserve water resources, improve drought resilience, and protect watershed health. Native plants evolved here—“adapted to Colorado’s climate, soils, and hydrology”—meaning they generally require less irrigation once established and support healthier, more stable watersheds.</p> <p>HB26-1132 makes these goals real by directing covered agencies to plan projects with plant diversity, overlapping bloom periods, and site-specific ecological suitability; to coordinate purchasing to expand supply; to establish training for crews; and to implement pollinator habitat zones with mowing practices that protect habitat—while balancing wildfire risk and public safety.</p>
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	<p>In short: this bill strengthens ecosystems from the ground up—supporting pollinators, the wildlife that depends on them, and the agriculture and water systems we all depend on.</p> <p>I respectfully urge a “yes” vote on HB26-1132. Thank you.</p>
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