



## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

### *Honey Bee Protection*

**S. 6763 – Biaggi**

**A. 8704 - Thiele**

An ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to the preservation of honey bee colonies.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Honey bees are an indispensable component of our food web. New York has more than seven-million acres in agricultural production, and many of the state's leading crops, such as apples, cabbage, berries, pumpkins and several other fruits, rely heavily on insect pollination.

Unfortunately, stressors such as pesticide exposure and climate change are contributing to major losses in honey bee populations in New York State. Research shows that from 2017 to 2018, beekeepers in New York State alone lost over 40 percent of their honey bee colonies, providing an immediate risk to our food supplies.

#### **JUSTIFICATION**

There is currently no state or federal law that makes it illegal to kill honey bees in New York State. While unwanted bee swarms and colonies around homes and businesses can be problematic, more needs to be done to prevent extermination of these honey bees.

This legislation would require a person to contact the Plant Industry Division of the Department of Agriculture and Markets at least 24 hours in advance of exterminating honey bee colonies and/or hanging swarms to receive assistance in trying to relocate the honey bees. If the Plant Industry Division is not reachable, a person would have to contact at least three beekeepers to assist with relocation of the honeybees before extermination.

This legislation is a simple, common-sense solution to prevent the unnecessary destruction of honey bee swarms and colonies in New York State. Similar legislation has already been passed into law in neighboring New Jersey.

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS**

**S.6763/A.8704 – HONEY BEE PROTECTION**