



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, pollinators—as exemplified by bees, bats, butterflies, and hummingbirds—are critical to the sustainability of our environment, vital to our food supply, and essential to the health of our agricultural economy, making the protection of pollinators a responsibility all New Yorkers share; and

**Whereas**, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollinators provide approximately \$389 million worth of pollination services to New York State and add \$29 billion in value to crop production nationwide each year making New York's ability to produce crops such as apples, grapes, cherries, onions, pumpkins, and cauliflower profoundly dependent on these species; and

**Whereas**, pollinators transfer pollen from flower to flower, fertilizing plants to enable the production of seeds, nuts, and fruits—an essential process for 75 percent of flowering plants across the globe; and

**Whereas**, the use of harmful pesticides, unsustainable land use, and climate change have all led to declines in pollinator populations, disrupting the natural balance of interdependence that binds ecosystems together; and

**Whereas**, New York's nation-leading law, the Birds and Bees Protection Act, is a significant stride in protecting New Yorkers, their environment, and essential pollinators by prioritizing sustainable farming practices and prohibiting the use of certain neonicotinoid pesticide-treated (neonics) corn, soybean, or wheat seeds, as well as neonics used on outdoor ornamental plants and turfs; and

**Whereas**, New Yorkers can get involved in protecting our pollinators by planting a succession of native perennials—such as *Echinacea purpurea* (Purple Coneflower) or *Iris versicolor* (Northern Blueflag)—to provide year-round nectar and pollen sources and cultivating natural habitats by permitting native wildflowers to grow undisturbed throughout their surroundings; and

**Whereas**, as we celebrate and raise awareness in support of pollinator health, New Yorkers are encouraged to protect the quiet architects of our landscape—hardworking creatures driving the biodiversity of New York State from our backyard gardens to our rolling hills where countless species coexist with native plants to help our entire environment blossom and thrive;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 22-28, 2026, as

## POLLINATOR WEEK

in the Empire State.

**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eleventh day  
of June in the year two thousand twenty-six.



*Kathy Hochul*

Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh