



PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 20th October 2021

The Native Irish Honey Bee Society (NIHBS) is delighted to advise that Senator Vincent P Martin will this week be bringing a bill to the Seanad regarding the ‘**Protection of the Native Irish Honey Bee Bill 2021**’.

This Act will ban the importation of non-native honey bees with the aim of reducing the threat to and adverse impact upon biodiversity and the ecosystem arising from the introgression/crossing/cross-breeding of the native Irish Honey Bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera*, due to the importation of non-native species or sub-species of and/or strains derived from *Apis mellifera*.

This bill will put into law the wishes of the vast majority of beekeepers who do not want to see the extinction through hybridisation of our native honey bee, which is a valuable part of our natural heritage and biodiversity. We trust that our legislators will now ensure that there will be a legal means of protecting and conserving this precious honey bee, before it is too late.

NIHBS are extremely grateful to Senator Martin, the Climate Bar Association and Professor Grace McCormack of NUIG for all their help.

All the major beekeeping organisations in Ireland have already signed up to a Statement Against Imports of non-native honey bees.

NIHBS is an all-Ireland voluntary organisation whose objectives are to promote the conservation, study and improvement of the native Irish honey bee, *Apis mellifera mellifera*, also known as the ‘black bee’, throughout the island of Ireland. To learn more, check out our website: www.nihbs.org or follow our social media pages, Facebook Twitter, Instagram.

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