TITLE: An Action Relating To The Resources And Development Committee And The NAABIK’IYATI’ Committee; Authorizing And Requiring Navajo Nation Leadership To Meet With The New Mexico Congressional Delegation Sponsors Of The “Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act Of 2019”, (Federal Legislations S-1079 And HR-2181) To Express Navajo Nation Concerns With The Legislation And To Request The Energy And Natural Resources Committee Of The United States Senate To Hold Hearings In The Target Area To Receive Testimony From All Affected Navajo Allottees Impacted By The Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act Of 2019; Such Actions To Take Place Before The Navajo Nation Adopts An Official Position Regarding The “Chaco Cultural Heritage Area And Protection Act Of 2019

Date posted: July 3, 2019 at 7:30 PM

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DATE: July 2, 2019

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK’ÍYÁTI COMMITTEE; AUTHORIZING AND REQUIRING NAVAJO NATION LEADERSHIP TO MEET WITH THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SPONSORS OF THE “CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT OF 2019”, (FEDERAL LEGISLATIONS S-1079 AND HR-2181) TO EXPRESS NAVAJO NATION CONCERNS WITH THE LEGISLATION AND TO REQUEST THE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO HOLD HEARINGS IN THE TARGET AREA TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY FROM ALL AFFECTED NAVAJO ALLOTTEES IMPACTED BY THE CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2019; SUCH ACTIONS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE NAVAJO NATION ADOPTS AN OFFICIAL POSITION REGARDING THE “CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

PURPOSE: Authorizing and requiring Navajo Nation leadership to meet with the New Mexico Congressional delegation regarding the Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019 and to request in addition that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the United States Senate hold hearings in the affected areas of Navajo Nation.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate review the proposed resolution in detail.
PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

[Signature]
(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0189-19

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK’IYÁTI’ COMMITTEE;
AUTHORIZING AND REQUIRING NAVAJO NATION LEADERSHIP TO MEET WITH THE NEW MEXICO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION SPONSORS OF THE “CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA PROTECTION ACT OF 2019”, (FEDERAL LEGISLATIONS S-1079 AND HR-2181) TO EXPRESS NAVAJO NATION CONCERNS WITH THE LEGISLATION AND TO REQUEST THE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO HOLD HEARINGS IN THE TARGET AREA TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY FROM ALL AFFECTED NAVAJO ALLOTTEES IMPACTED BY THE CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2019; SUCH ACTIONS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE NAVAJO NATION ADOPTS AN OFFICIAL POSITION REGARDING THE “CHACO CULTURAL HERITAGE AREA AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

WHEREAS:
A. The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council exercises oversight authority over water, land, grazing, environment, economic and community development. 2 N.N.C. §500 (C).
B. The Naabik’iyáti Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is the standing committee empowered to coordinate and pronounce the official position of the Navajo Nation before non-Naabik’iyáti government federal, state or other entities. 2 N.N.C. § 700 (A).

C. This legislation is a necessary response to current developments involving actions of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and the “Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019” (Act); Legislation S. 1079 and H.R. 2181. See Exhibit A.

D. These bills, S.1079 and its companion bill H.R. 2181, both sharing the common title “Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019”, have been sponsored by the New Mexico Congressional delegation.

E. The “Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019” in an effort to protect the archeological, sacred and historic resources located throughout the Greater Chaco region severely restricts, prohibits in effect, any extraction operations from occurring on lands within the Act’s expansive impact area. See Exhibit A.

F. The Act will have a major and severe impact on the lands rightly owned by the numerous Navajo Nation allottees in that affected area. See Exhibit B.

G. The Navajo Nation finds it is in the best interest of the Diné that the Navajo Nation, through its leadership, including the Speaker of the Navajo Nation or his designee, the President of the Navajo Nation or his designee and other selected members of leadership as they may choose to meet with and communicate to the New Mexico Congressional delegation, the concerns of the Navajo Nation regarding “Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019”.

H. The Navajo Nation finds it is in the best interest of the Diné that the Navajo Nation leadership formally request and make best efforts to ensure that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the United States Senate hold on-site hearings on the impact of the “Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act of 2019” on the Navajo Nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

A. The Navajo Nation hereby requires and so authorizes the Navajo Nation leadership, including the Speaker of the Navajo Nation or his designee, and the President of the
Navajo Nation or his designee and other selected members of leadership as they may choose, to meet with and communicate to the New Mexico Congressional delegation, the concerns of the Navajo Nation regarding “Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019”.

B. The Navajo Nation hereby directs the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council or his designee and the President of the Navajo Nation or his designee to formally request and make their best efforts to ensure, that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the United States Senate hold on-site hearings on the impact of the “Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act of 2019” on the Navajo Nation.

C. It is the intent of this legislation that no official position of the Navajo Nation regarding the “Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Act of 2019” be adopted until the meetings and hearings directed by this legislation have occurred.