LEGISLATION NO: _0100-20_____   SPONSOR: Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik’íyáti’ Committee; Supporting Arizona House Bill 2573 titled “APPROPRIATION; LABORATORY; NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY”

Date posted: April 23, 2020 at 5:47pm

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DATE: April 22, 2020

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'IIYATI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING ARIZONA HOUSE BILL 2573 TITLED "APPROPRIATION; LABORATORY; NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY"

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution to support Arizona House Bill 2573 Titled "Appropriation; Laboratory; Navajo Technical University."

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 to review each proposed resolution in detail.
PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Second Year, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

[Signature]

Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0100-20

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK’IYATI’ COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING ARIZONA HOUSE BILL 2573 TITLED “APPROPRIATION; LABORATORY; NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY”

WHEREAS:

A. The Naabik’íyáti’ Committee is empowered to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, and departments of the United States government. 2 N.N.C. § 701 (A)(8).

B. The novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) has caused a global pandemic and has hit the Navajo Nation especially hard. As of April 18th, the Navajo Nation reported 1,197 cases of COVID-19 and 44 deaths from the virus.

C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of Arizona.

D. During the Second Regular Session of the Fifty-Fourth Legislature, Arizona House Bill 2573 was introduced. See Arizona HB 2573 attached hereto as Exhibit A.

E. House Bill 2573 seeks to appropriate the sum of $3,000,000 from the state general fund in fiscal year 2020-2021 to distribute to the Navajo Technical University to develop and construct an environmental testing laboratory on the university campus in Chinle, Arizona.
F. Navajo Technical University has been planning a certified Navajo Environmental Center Lab for several years now and has been seeking funding for that lab from the Arizona legislature. The severe breakout of the covid-19 virus on the Navajo Nation and in Arizona is more evidence of the importance of such a lab to the tribe and the state. The planning that has gone on to date for an environmental lab has had several aspects, one of which has been the ability to test for pathogens like covid-19. Given the importance of testing to allowing the opening up of the Navajo Nation and Arizona to a more normal way of operations, building a medical lab capable of developing and deploying tests to detect the virus, the Environmental Lab has become an even more important project for the Navajo people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports Arizona House Bill 2573 titled "APPROPRIATION; LABORATORY; NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY" attached hereto as Exhibit A.

B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate the Navajo Nation’s support of Arizona House Bill 2573.