



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2016

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Council unanimously supports grazing committee members

WINDOW ROCK – On Wednesday, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council voted 15-0 to approve Legislation No. 0242-16, which would amend Title 3 section 878 (c) of the Navajo Nation Code if the resolution is signed into law. This portion of the Code refers to compensation for Navajo grazing committee members.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) stated that the purpose of the amendment would be to provide funds for district grazing committee members in the Navajo Nation’s Comprehensive Budget each year.

“The change means the district grazing committee members’ compensation budget should be included in the annual budget of the Nation and not subject to availability of funds. This would guarantee compensation to grazing committee members for their work and services every year,” stated Delegate Witherspoon.

The new language reads:

District grazing committee members attending their respective chapter, district and/or agency meetings may be compensated for each meeting wherein official business is conducted, from funds provided annually in the Navajo Nation budget.

The current law states that their compensation is contingent on the availability of funds, which has often led to a lack of compensation for members for long periods of time.

Several grazing committee members came before the Council’s Naabik’iyáti’ Committee to share their concerns and to ask for the Council’s assistance to resolve the issue.

“Grazing committee members serve our communities and provide valuable services year after year,” stated Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland). “I thank my Council colleagues for supporting Delegate Witherspoon’s legislation.”

President Russell Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution once it is delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President.

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