



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Navajo Nation Council approves \$2.4 million to support District Grazing Committees, Eastern Navajo Land Board, and Farm Boards

WINDOW ROCK – During a special session held on Friday, the Navajo Nation Council approved approximately \$2.4 million in supplemental funding from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to fund stipends for officials who serve local communities as members of District Grazing Committees, Eastern Navajo Land Board, and Farm Boards.

During the FY2018 Comprehensive Budget session in September, the Council approved funding to be carried over from FY2017 to FY2018 to fund the stipends, however, President Russell Begaye used the presidential line-item veto authority to deny the carryover funding and stated that he would support a funding request from the UUFB instead.

Legislation co-sponsor Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa’tsis’Áán, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) presented the bill before the Council and asked for their support to provide funds for the officials, many of whom have been inadequately compensated for their work and efforts to address grazing, land, and livestock issues in local chapters.

If the president approves the resolution, the bill will appropriate approximately \$1.7 million for District Grazing Committees, \$483,000 for the Eastern Navajo Land Board, and \$257,000 for farm boards. The funding would be allocated to the Division of Natural Resources to administer.

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) said the funding is greatly needed for the officials, and urged the Council to make the funding a permanent part of the Nation’s annual budget rather than seeking supplemental funding each year.

Speaking in support of the bill, Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) expressed his appreciation for the dedication of the officials and acknowledged the complexity and difficulty of their duties on a daily basis.

The Council voted 20-0 to approve Legislation No. 0446-17. President Begaye will have ten calendar days to consider the funding once the resolution is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

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