

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0005-19__

SPONSOR: Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

TITLE: An Action To NAABIK'IYATI' Committee; Approving And Adopting The Legislative Priorities Of The Navajo Nation As determined By The 24th Navajo Nation Council Relating To The State Of Arizona

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0005-19

DATE: January 17, 2019

**SUBJECT: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;
APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF
THE NAVAJO NATION AS DETERMINED BY THE 24TH NAVAJO
NATION COUNCIL RELATING TO THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this legislation is to approve the legislative priorities of the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

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 STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL— First Year, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

K 7

Primary Sponsor *Kae Allen Begay JR*

TRACKING NO. 0005-19

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND ADOPTING
THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE NAVAJO NATION AS DETERMINED
BY THE 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RELATING TO THE STATE OF
ARIZONA

WHEREAS:

- A. Statements of policy, enactment of positive law, intergovernmental agreements, budget resolutions, and reallocations, must be reviewed and approved by resolution by the appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation Council except as otherwise provided herein. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A).
- B. Statements of policy are written statements submitted to federal, state or local governments by a Navajo Nation official stating the official position of the Navajo Nation on proposed legislation or other action by that government. *See* 2 N.N.C. § 110 (W).
- C. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701(A)(6).

1 D. The 2019 Arizona Legislative Priorities provides a list of topics addressed during the
2 Naabik'íyáti' Committee's State Affairs Task Force Subcommittee meetings.

3 E. The Navajo Nation's legislative priorities for the State of Arizona are as follows:

4 1. Community Development

- 5 a. Pursue TPT equity, dual taxation or capital projects.
- 6 b. Continue to protect Navajo gaming from private or state expansion
- 7 c. Support additional Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) funding for
8 counties.
- 9 d. Increase Navajo portion from Arizona Fuel Excise Tax from 12 cents to 16
10 cents.
- 11 e. Support the reintroduction and passage of SB 1086, which would have
12 allowed Counties under 400,000 population to increase taxes for roads.

13 2. Economic Development

- 14 a. Prioritize state funding for Navajo development between: (A) capital
15 projects, (B) dual taxation, or (C) TPT equity.
- 16 b. Oppose forms of gaming expansion that harm Navajo gaming.
- 17 c. Continue to support Navajo efforts to keep Navajo Generating Station and
18 Four Corners Power Plant open.

19 3. Education

- 20 a. Support Governor Ducey's plan for additional K-12 funding; 20% over three
21 years.
- 22 b. Expand Code Writers Education Program for Navajo students.
- 23 c. Oppose any additional measure of Desegregation Phase Down, which cost
24 Arizona schools, serving Navajo funding.
- 25 d. Continue to advocate for expanding Tribal College Dual Credit Program.
- 26 e. Advocate for increase funding for Office of Indian Education.

27 4. Public Safety

- 28 a. Continue support for First Net implementation.
- 29 b. Introduce Liquor Bill to limit liquor store placement close to the Navajo
30 Nation.

1 5. Social Services

2 6. Health Care

- 3 a. Continue to obtain appointment for Navajo to the Advisory Council for
4 Indian Health Care.
- 5 b. Navajo initiative to publicize Kids Care availability.
- 6 c. Advocate for a CMS ruling that will allow the Arizona policy on eliminating
7 work requirements and 5 year lifetime limits for tribal members on
8 AHCCCS.
- 9 d. Support the reintroduction and passage of SB 1086 which would have
10 allowed, if passed, increased provision of chiropractic services.

11 7. Natural Resources

- 12 a. Continue to support the continued operation of Navajo Generating Station
13 and Four Corners Power Plant.
- 14 b. Support LCR settlement process that Navajo initiates with Hopi and the
15 State.
- 16 c. Prepare to oppose legislation next session, if harmful to Navajo, regarding
17 ground water issues.
- 18 d. Monitor Colorado River negotiations for any impact on Navajo.
- 19 e. Monitor deregulations docket at the Arizona Corporation Commission.

20 8. Navajo Veterans

- 21 a. Notify targeted qualified veterans for tax refund, application process, and the
22 time limit to obtain funds.
- 23 b. Ensure sufficient state budget funding for the Arizona Department of
24 Veteran's Services to serve Navajo Veterans, as well.
- 25 c. Work with Navajo Veterans agency and State to ensure effective delivery
26 service.
- 27 d. Advocate for additional funding for Veterans Education Assistance and boost
28 workforce opportunities for Veterans.
- 29 e. Increase funding for services related to Social Services and Mental Health.
- 30

1 f. Advocate for grants to fund community agencies to provide services for
2 community and veterans cemeteries.

3 9. Transportation

4 a. Support Arizona Department of Transportation's application for 2018
5 Competitive Highway Bridge Program: US 191 Bridge Bundling Project.

6 1. Chinle Wash Bridge (Structure No. 1003) – Bridge Rehabilitation and
7 repair;

8 2. Agua Sal Wash – Southbound Bridge (Structure No. 1004) – Partial
9 bridge deck replacement

10 3. Aqua Sal Wash – Northbound Bridge (Structure No. 1005) – Bridge
11 Replacement;

12 4. Lukachukai Creek – (Structure No. 1006) – Bridge Replacement.

13 b. Support State Rights-of-Way.

14 F. These priorities were adopted and approved by the 23rd Navajo Nation Council in
15 Resolution NABI-79-18, attached as **Exhibit A**.

16 G. The Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo People to support the
17 approval and adoption of the legislative priorities of the Navajo Nation as determined by
18 the 24th Navajo Nation Council and relating to the State of Arizona.

19
20 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

21 The Navajo Nation hereby approves the Navajo Nation's legislative priorities relating
22 to the State of Arizona as determined by the 24th Navajo Nation Council and authorizes
23 the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, and their designees, and the
24 Naabik'iyáti' Committee's State Affairs Task Force, to advocate the position of the
25 Navajo Nation with the State of Arizona.
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