

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0032-20\_\_

SPONSOR: Otto Tso

**TITLE: An Action Relating To Naabik'íyáti'; Supporting request of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission requesting President Donald Trump to appoint a commissioner to oversee the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation**

**Date posted: February 7, 2020 at 4:57 PM**

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## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0032-20

**DATE:** February 7, 2020

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'; SUPPORTING REQUEST OF THE NAVAJO -HOPI LAND COMMISSION REQUESTING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TO APPOINT A COMMISSIONER TO OVERSEE THE OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN RELOCATION

**PURPOSE:** This resolution supports the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission in its request that President Donald Trump appoint a commissioner to oversee the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation.

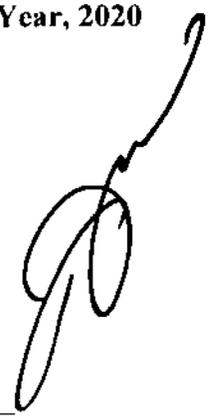
**This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 2888  
Website Posting Time/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 2/12/2020  
Eligible for Action: 2/13/2020

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

  
OTTO TSO  
(Prime Sponsor)



TRACKING NO. 0032-20

AN ACTION  
RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI; SUPPORTING REQUEST OF THE NAVAJO –HOPI  
LAND COMMISSION REQUESTING PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TO APPOINT A  
COMMISSIONER TO OVERSEE THE OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN  
RELOCATION

**WHEREAS:**

1. The United States Congress on December 22, 1974 enacted the Navajo and Hopi Indian Land Settlement Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-531). The impact of this act has been devastating as the law ultimately required in the relocation of residents from ancestral lands.
2. The Navajo Nation Council created the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission in 1980. The commission was delegated the authority to oversee land selection and land exchange activities mandated under federal law.
3. Litigation between the Navajo and Hopi tribes resulted in development restrictions on 1.5 million acres of land under dispute. The acreage became known as the "Bennett Freeze Area." In 2009, after 43 years, this restriction on development was lifted.
4. The Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR) was established through federal law for purposes of overseeing the relocation of approximately 16,000 Navajos from their ancestral lands. Through federal act establishing ONHIR, the

1 federal government promised that the implementation of relocation would be  
2 "generous, ... minimiz[ing] the adverse social, economic, and cultural impacts of  
3 relocation on affected tribal members, .... avoid[ing] any repetition of the unfortunate  
4 results of a number of early, official Indian relocation efforts....". See NHLCAU-7-  
5 19, resolution of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission, attached as EXHIBIT A. In  
6 spite of these promises, the federal program of relocation has been and continues to  
7 be harsh and devastating on families and communities affected.

- 8 5. Furthermore, the federal government, for the past 25 years, has failed to appoint a  
9 commissioner as required under the act creating the commission. A commissioner is  
10 necessary for purposes of coordinating a multi-agency approach addressing the  
11 continuing harsh realities caused by the federal government's program in relocating  
12 Navajo families.

13  
14  
15 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

16 The Navajo Nation supports the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission in its urgent request  
17 that Donald Trump, through his authority as President of the United States, and pursuant  
18 to federal law, appoint a Commissioner to oversee the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian  
19 Relocation.