TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik’íyáti’ Committee; Establishing the Navajo Nation’s Position to Protect and Preserve the San Francisco Peaks, a Sacred Mountain and Cultural Property, for the Navajo People and Other Indigenous Relatives

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DATE: April 30, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING THE NAVAO NATION'S POSITION TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS, A SACRED MOUNTAIN AND CULTURAL PROPERTY, FOR THE NAVAO PEOPLE AND OTHER INDIGENOUS RELATIVES

PURPOSE: To establish the Navajo Nation’s position to protect and preserve the San Francisco Peaks, a sacred mountain and cultural property, for the Navajo people and other Indigenous relatives.

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—THIRD YEAR, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

[Signature]

Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0090-21

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING THE NAVAJO NATION'S POSITION TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS, A SACRED MOUNTAIN AND CULTURAL PROPERTY, FOR THE NAVAJO PEOPLE AND OTHER INDIGENOUS RELATIVES

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. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to coordinate all federal programs and to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(4), 701(A)(6). See also CO-45-12.
D. The San Francisco Peaks are considered a sacred mountain used for tribal religious practices and ceremonies; and is a cultural property of thirteen (13) other Indigenous
Relatives (tribes) to include the Navajo, Hopi, Havasupai, Hualapai, Yavapai-Apache, and White Mountain Apache.

E. For the Navajo, the San Francisco Peaks are the sacred mountain to the west, *Doko’oo’sliid*, interpreted as “Shining On Top” and is a key boundary marker for the Navajo Nation.

F. The San Francisco Peaks is a place where medicine men of many tribes collect herbs for healing ceremonies.

G. Since 1979, the United States Forest Service has permitted the Snow Bowl Ski Resort to operate on its slopes.

H. In 2009, and despite legal challenges of tribes, the resort received legal clearance to use reclaimed wastewater to make additional snow, a desecration of the sacred slopes and a threat to the pure drinking water supplied by the mountain aquifer.

I. Protection of the San Francisco Peaks will preserve its cultural and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and religious significance and values for the benefit of Native Americans and all Americans.

J. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, by Resolution NNHRCUL-08-20, attached as Exhibit A, requests the support of the Navajo Nation to protect and preserve the San Francisco Peaks from further development. Exhibit A includes Naabik’iyati’ Committee Resolution NABIS-58-11.

K. University of Arizona Indigenous People’s Law & Policy (IPLP) faculty, staff, and students have petitioned the Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to protect the San Francisco Peaks and the religious practices and spiritual beliefs of the Navajo people.

L. Additional supporters against the development of the San Francisco Peaks are the Dine’ Medicine Man’s Association, Sierra Club, Flagstaff Activist Network, and the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity.

M. The people of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah include many Native American tribes. To continuously allow the development of the San Francisco Peaks would dishonor the will of the people of Navajo Nation and other Indigenous tribes.
Relatives (tribes) to include the Navajo, Hopi, Havasupai, Hualapai, Yavapai-Apache, and White Mountain Apache.

E. For the Navajo, the San Francisco Peaks are the sacred mountain to the west, *Doko'oo'sliid', interpreted as "Shining On Top" and is a key boundary marker for the Navajo Nation.

F. The San Francisco Peaks is a place where medicine men of many tribes collect herbs for healing ceremonies.

G. Since 1979, the United States Forest Service has permitted the Snow Bowl Ski Resort to operate on its slopes.

H. In 2009, and despite legal challenges of tribes, the resort received legal clearance to use reclaimed wastewater to make additional snow, a desecration of the sacred slopes and a threat to the pure drinking water supplied by the mountain aquifer.

I. Protection of the San Francisco Peaks will preserve its cultural and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and religious significance and values for the benefit of Native Americans and all Americans.

J. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, by Resolution NNHRCUL-08-20, attached as Exhibit A, requests the support of the Navajo Nation to protect and preserve the San Francisco Peaks from further development.

K. University of Arizona Indigenous People’s Law & Policy (IPLP) faculty, staff, and students have petitioned the Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to protect the San Francisco Peaks and the religious practices and spiritual beliefs of the Navajo people.

L. Additional supporters against the development of the San Francisco Peaks are the Dine’ Medicine Man’s Association, Sierra Club, Flagstaff Activist Network, and the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity.

M. The people of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah include many Native American tribes. To continuously allow the development of the San Francisco Peaks would dishonor the will of the people of Navajo Nation and other Indigenous tribes.
N. The Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo People to support its position to protect and preserve the San Francisco Peaks, a sacred mountain and tribal cultural property for the Navajo People and other Indigenous relatives.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

A. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, to affirm its position of protecting and preserving the San Francisco Peaks, a sacred mountain and cultural property, for the Navajo people and other Indigenous relatives.