LEGISLATION NO: _0119-21_  
SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik’íyáti’ Committee; Supporting United States Senator, Ben Ray Luján, Priorities and Initiatives that Impact the Navajo Nation

Date posted: __July 21, 2021 at 8:42PM_

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 et. seq.
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0119-21

DATE: July 13, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATOR, BEN RAY LUJÁN, PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES THAT IMPACT THE NAVAJO NATION

PURPOSE: An action related to the Naabik’iyati’ Committee, supporting United States Senator, Ben Ray Lujan’s, priorities and initiatives that impact the Navajo Nation.

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]

(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0119-21

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK’ÍYÁTI’ COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATOR, BEN RAY LUJÁN, PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES THAT IMPACT THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

A. The Naabik’íyáti’ Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the enumerated authority to "review and continually monitor the programs and activities of federal and state departments and to assist development of such programs designed to serve the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation through intergovernmental relationships between the Navajo Nation and such departments."

2 N.N.C. §701 (A)(7).


C. On January 3, 2021, Ben Ray Luján (Senator Luján) was sworn into office as a United States (U.S.) Senator representing New Mexico. He previously served as U.S. Representative for New Mexico’s Third Congressional District and House Assistant Speaker in the 116th Congress.

D. Senator Luján has established several priorities under his administration that impact Indian Country and the Navajo Nation:
1. Protecting Native American (Native) Voting Rights in support of the Native American Voting Rights Act. Today Native peoples, particularly those living on Navajo Tribal lands, continue to face linguistic, geographic, and legal barriers to voting. States are restricting Native voting rights by printing ballots only in English, closing or moving polling places hundreds of miles off Tribal and Navajo Nation lands, and requiring addresses from Native voters whose homes on the reservation or in villages do not have physical addresses. This type of disenfranchisement is unacceptable and a stain on the U.S. Government’s federal trust responsibility and democracy.

2. Expanding Funding for Native Voting Access in the Four Corners Area. The nonpartisan Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) program allocates funds to 55 legally-established Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems across the country to improve access to the ballot (poll worker training and American Disabilities Act compliance) for Natives and Americans with disabilities.

3. Protecting Native Youth and Tribal Officers. The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) authorized tribes, to include the Navajo Nation, to exercise special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction (SDVCJ) to arrest and prosecute non-Indians for domestic violence (DV), dating violence, and violations of protection orders if certain conditions are met:

   (a) The victim must be Indian, (b) the non-Indian offender has sufficient ties to the tribe, (c) and the tribe guarantees the non-Indian offender has constitutional protections on a par to those provided in a federal or state forum.

4. The Navajo Nation has a high rate of domestic violence. VAWA does not currently authorize Tribes to prosecute crimes against Tribal officers responding to DV situations under SDVCJ to include police officers of the Navajo Nation.

5. Safeguarding Native Children’s Welfare. There is an enormous need for family violence prevention and treatment resources in Navajo Nation communities. Statistics reflect that Native women, including Navajo women, are more likely than any other population to experience domestic violence. In fact, more than one in three Native women experience domestic violence at some point in their lives.
Further, Native children, including Navajo children experience child abuse and neglect at an elevated rate.

6. Fully Funding Water Infrastructure Needs on Tribal Lands. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that safe water, reliable sanitation, and hygienic conditions are essential on Tribal lands and the Navajo Nation and are essential to protecting human health. Due to lack of basic water and sanitation infrastructure, many Navajo communities, particularly those in remote areas, have been unable to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control’s recommended sanitation and hygiene practices, compounding the pandemic’s impact.

E. Senator Luján has championed efforts to expand quality health care and protect patients with pre-existing conditions, preserve our natural resources and sacred sites, build a clean energy economy, and uplift the middle-class.

F. Throughout his time in Congress, Senator Luján has fought to increase New Mexicans’, including Navajo tribal members, access to quality health care no matter where they live. He has had legislation signed into law to bolster the Children’s Health Insurance Program and strengthen Medicaid and Medicare.

G. Senator Luján has further championed for New Mexico families and he has been an unwavering supporter of women’s rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and continues to advance causes important to New Mexico and Navajo families.

I. Senator Luján’s legislative priorities and initiatives, as provided in Exhibit A, have a significant impact to the Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

A. The Navajo Nation supports U.S. Senator, Ben Ray Luján’s priorities and initiatives as provided in Exhibit A.