

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0213-21_

SPONSOR: Mark Freeland

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Requesting the State of New Mexico to Remove the Name of Christopher "Kit" Carson from All Monuments, State Parks, Government Buildings, Highways and Streets Within the State of New Mexico

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0213-21

DATE: October 8, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO REMOVE THE NAME OF CHRISTOPHER "KIT" CARSON FROM ALL MONUMENTS, STATE PARKS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, HIGHWAYS AND STREETS WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO


PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will request the State of New Mexico to immediately remove the name of Kit Carson from all governmental properties, including monuments, parks, highways, streets, etc. in the State of New Mexico, specifically including Kit Carson Park and Kit Carson Cemetery in Taos, New Mexico.

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

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: VS. Deadline
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: October 17, 2021
Eligible for Action: October 18, 2021

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL— Third Year, 2021

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5 _____

6 Primary Sponsor

7 TRACKING NO. 0213-21

8
9 AN ACTION

10 RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; REQUESTING THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO TO REMOVE THE NAME OF CHRISTOPHER "KIT"
12 CARSON FROM ALL MONUMENTS, STATE PARKS, GOVERNMENT
13 BUILDINGS, HIGHWAYS AND STREETS WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW
14 MEXICO

15
16 WHEREAS:

- 17 A. Navajo Nation statements of policy are written statements submitted to federal, state or
18 local governments by a Navajo Nation official stating the official position of the Navajo
19 Nation on proposed legislation or other action by that government. 2 N.N.C. § 110 (W).
20 Navajo Nation statements of policy must be reviewed and approved by resolution of
21 the appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation Council. *See* 2 N.N.C. §
22 164 (A).
- 23 B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation
24 Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyáti' Committee to assist
25 and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to
26 proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C.
27 §§ 700 (A) and 701(A)(6).
- 28 C. The Navajo people have continuously lived in the southwest since time immemorial,
29 but in 1863, Christopher ("Kit") Carson, a colonel of the First New Mexico Volunteers,
30 led a formal campaign and destructive war against the Navajo. Carson and his troops

1 terrorized the Navajo people by burning crops, destroying homes, and slaughtering and
2 killing livestock.

3 D. In 1863, Kit Carson and his troops, under the direction of General James Carleton,
4 rounded up and forcibly removed approximately 8,000 Navajos from their ancestral
5 lands and imprisoned them in a concentration camp known to the Navajo as “Hweeldi”
6 in Bosque Redondo (Fort Sumner).

7 E. Navajos call the forced march of over 300 miles from their ancestral lands to Hweedli
8 as the “Long Walk” or “Trail of Tears”. On the forced march, more than two-hundred
9 Navajos died from adverse weather, illness, exhaustion, and the brutality of Carson and
10 his troops.

11 F. While imprisoned at Fort Sumner, Navajos experienced slavery, starvation,
12 prostitution, and disease. It is estimated that between 1864 and 1868 more than two
13 thousand Navajos died at Fort Sumner. Kit Carson’s troops placed decedent’s remains
14 in unmarked graves and prohibited Navajos from following their traditional burial
15 practices.

16 G. Because of the brutal treatment of the Navajo people under the direction of Kit Carson,
17 the Navajo Nation strenuously objects to any and all memorialization of Kit Carson,
18 including the erection of monuments and the naming of parks, government buildings,
19 highways, roads, etc. in his honor.

20 H. The Navajo Nation calls on the State of New Mexico to cease the naming of parks,
21 government buildings, highways, roads, etc. in Kit Carson’s honor and specifically
22 requests that the State of New Mexico immediately rename Kit Carson Park and Kit
23 Carson Cemetery in Taos, New Mexico.

24
25 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

26 A. The Navajo Nation hereby requests the State of New Mexico to immediately remove
27 the name of Christopher “Kit” Carson from all governmental properties, including
28 monuments, parks, highways, streets, etc. in the State of New Mexico, specifically
29 including Kit Carson Park and Kit Carson Cemetery in Taos, New Mexico.

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B. The Navajo Nation hereby further requests that the State of New Mexico immediately cease naming governmental properties, including monuments, parks, highways, streets, etc. in the State of New Mexico in honor of Christopher "Kit" Carson.