TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development Committee; Confirming the Reappointment of a Belinda Eriacho to Serve on the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority Management Board of Directors for a Term of Three Years

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DATE: October 29, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT; CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF BELINDA ERIACHO TO SERVE ON THE NAVAJO TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY MANAGEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS

PURPOSE: The purpose of the resolution is to confirm the reappointment of Belinda Eriacho to serve on the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority’s Management Board of Directors for a term of three (3) years from October 2021 until the annual board meeting in October 2024.

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

(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0224-21

AN ACTION
RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT; CONFIRMING THE
REAPPOINTMENT OF BELINDA ERIACHO TO SERVE ON THE NAVAJO
TRIBAL UTILITY AUTHORITY MANAGEMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR
A TERM OF THREE YEARS

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Resources and Development Committee was established as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 500(A).
B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 500(C), the Resources and Development Committee shall exercise oversight authority over public utilities.
C. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 501(B)(9), Resources and Development Committee has the authority to grant final confirmation of appointments to enterprise boards.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. Pursuant to 21 N.N.C. § 2, the Navajo Nation established the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) as an enterprise.
B. The NTUA is authorized to acquire, construct, operate and maintain utility systems throughout the Navajo Nation. See 21 N.N.C. § 1(B).

C. The general purpose of NTUA is to operate, maintain and promote existing utility systems furnishing electric, gas, water, sewer utility services; generation, and telecommunications and information services for the benefit of residents of the Navajo Nation; including the establishment, ownership, operation and maintenance of electric generating, telecommunications and information services on or off the Navajo Reservation; and to provide utility generation, telecommunications and information services on a non-profit basis and at a reasonable cost to residents of the Navajo Nation consistent with the economical operations of the Enterprise. See 21 N.N.C. § 5(A)(1)-(6).

D. The NTUA Management Board shall have the delegated authority and responsibility for the management and operation of the Enterprise. See 21 N.N.C. § 7 (1).

E. The management board shall consist of seven (7) persons, all of whom shall be appointed by the Government Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council; whose authority to confirm appointments to enterprise boards has been delegated to the Resources and Development Committee. See 21 N.N.C. § 9 (A); See also 2 N.N.C. § 501 (B)(9).

F. Members of the board shall be called directors, and shall have the following qualifications:

1. Four of the directors shall be members of the Navajo Nation who speak English fluently and who have sufficient education and experience to qualify them for learning utility business practices and procedures and making sound judgments; (2) Four of the directors shall be persons having not less than 10 years' experience in business management of substantial character and at least two of such persons shall have had such experience in the management and operation of a utility business. See 21 N.N.C. § 9(B)(1)-(2).

G. Vacancies in the management board may be filled for an unexpired term of the vacant office. See 21 N.N.C. § 9 (C)(2).

H. Directors shall be eligible for reappointment. See 21 N.N.C. § 9(C)(1) – (2).

I. RDCD-101-18 appointed Belinda Eriacho to the NTUA Management Board for a term of three years that expired at the annual board meeting in October 2021. The appointed resolution RDCD-101-18 is attached as Exhibit 1.
J. On September 24, 2021, Belinda Eriacho was recommended to be reappointed by the NTUA Management Board resolution NTUA-34-21. Belinda Eriacho’s resume is attached as RDCD-101-18 Exhibit B which is attached in Exhibit 1.

K. Belinda Eriacho meets the qualifications listed under 21 N.N.C. § 9(B)(1)-(2). Ms. Eriacho’s resume is attached as RDCD-101-18 Exhibit B which is attached in Exhibit 1.

L. The reappointment of Belinda Eriacho will be for a period of three years starting from October 2021 and will expire with the annual board meeting in October 2024. See 21 N.N.C. § 9(C)(2).

M. The Resolution of the Management Board of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority NTUA-34-21 recommending the reappointment of Belinda Eriacho to the Management Board of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority is attached as Exhibit 2.

SECTION THREE. CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT

The Resources and Development Committee finds that Belinda Eriacho meets the required qualifications to be reappointed as a director for the NTUA management board as set forth in 21 N.N.C. § 9 (B)(1)-(2), and hereby reappoints Belinda Eriacho for a term of three years, with the term expiring at the annual board meeting in October 2024.