

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0098-22_

SPONSOR: Nathaniel Brown

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Supporting the Kayenta Chapter's Application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Funding; Authorizing the Kayenta Chapter to Access and Build the Infrastructure Necessary for "A Resilient Broadband Solution for Kayenta Chapter" in the Black Mesa and Comb Ridge/El Capitan Regions

Date posted: May 18, 2022 at 5:07 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0098-22

DATE: May 17, 2022

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE KAYENTA CHAPTER'S APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION FOR TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM FUNDING; AUTHORIZING THE KAYENTA CHAPTER TO ACCESS AND BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR "A RESILIENT BROADBAND SOLUTION FOR KAYENTA CHAPTER" IN THE BLACK MESA AND COMB RIDGE/EL CAPITAN REGIONS

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will provide support for the Kayenta Chapter's application for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program funding and authorization for Kayenta Chapter access to and build the infrastructure necessary for the "A Resilient Broadband Solution for Kayenta Chapter" project.

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: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 05-23-22
Eligible for Action: 05-24-22

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Fourth Year, 2022
3 INTRODUCED BY
4

5 _____ *E.E.T.*
6 Primary Sponsor *E.T.T.S.D.*
7 TRACKING NO. 0098-22
8

9 AN ACTION
10 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE
11 KAYENTA CHAPTER'S APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL
12 TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION FOR
13 TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM FUNDING;
14 AUTHORIZING THE KAYENTA CHAPTER TO ACCESS AND BUILD THE
15 INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR "A RESILIENT BROADBAND
16 SOLUTION FOR KAYENTA CHAPTER" IN THE BLACK MESA AND COMB
17 RIDGE/EL CAPITAN REGIONS
18

19 WHEREAS:

- 20 A. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
21 empowered to coordinate all federal, county and state programs with other standing
22 committees and branches to provide the most efficient delivery of services to the
23 Navajo Nation; and to review and continually monitor the programs and activities of
24 federal and state departments and to assist development of such programs designed to
25 serve the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation through intergovernmental
26 relationships between the Navajo Nation and such departments. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A),
27 701 (A)(4) and (A)(7).
28 B. The Kayenta Chapter of the Navajo Nation was officially certified as a Local
29 Governance Act ("LGA") Certified Chapter in August 2010. As an LGA Certified
30 Chapter, 26 N.N.C. §§ 101 – 103, the Kayenta Chapter has the delegated authority to

1 enter into intergovernmental agreements with federal, state, tribal entities and/or their
2 agencies, subject to the approval of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation
3 Council.

4 C. The Kayenta Chapter has applied to the National Telecommunications and Information
5 Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce under Funding Opportunity
6 Number ("FOA"), NTIA-TBC-TBCPO-2021-2006948, for Tribal Broadband
7 Connectivity Program funding. The Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO")
8 Executive Summary is attached as **Exhibit A**. The Kayenta Chapter's application is
9 attached as **Exhibit B**.

10 D. The Kayenta Chapter's application for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
11 funding is to build and develop the infrastructure for "A Resilient Broadband Solution
12 for Kayenta Chapter" in the Black Mesa and Comb Ridge/El Capitan regions.

13 E. Black Mesa is located at 36°33'35.62"N, 110°24'28.24"W with an area of 68,860
14 acres; Comb Ridge/El Capitan is located at 36°46'49.96"N, 110°10'8.38"W with an
15 area of 10,579 acres.

16 F. Kayenta Chapter's goal is to establish a combined solution, with fast-speed broadband
17 connectivity and supporting power infrastructure, covering residential communities in
18 both Comb Ridge/El Capitan and Black Mesa regions with 120 and 100 multi-family
19 houses, respectively.

20 G. The broadband connectivity will ensure upwards of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps
21 upload speeds. The broadband deployment will utilize satellite connection and build
22 four transmitters (two in each community), which includes two primary transmitters
23 and two intermediate sites with towers, Ethernet switches, wireless equipment, IP and
24 security installment.

25 H. The goal and final outcome of the "A Resilient Broadband Solution for Kayenta
26 Chapter" ("Project") is a reliable and resilient broadband network coupled with power
27 infrastructure that offers internet connectivity and electricity access to residents in the
28 targeted regions.

29 I. The scope of the Project will serve at least 1053.8 people out of which 296.38 are K-
30 12 students and 478.9 are of working age adults.

- 1
- 2 J. The Kayenta Chapter is locally governed by 2 full-time and 3 part-time administrative
- 3 staff. The staff is overseen by three (3) elected officials, i.e., Chapter President,
- 4 Chapter Vice-President, and Chapter Secretary-Treasurer.
- 5 K. The Project is part of Kayenta Chapter's 5-year economic development plan and is
- 6 expected to generate economic prosperity, provide access to education, jobs, basic
- 7 convenience, emergency public safety assistance and health, and to significantly
- 8 improve the quality of life of residents.
- 9 L. Broadband will also open up new opportunities for information exchange whose
- 10 importance has become particularly critical during COVID 19 pandemic. For example,
- 11 broadband will connect local residents, many of whom are farmers, to various online
- 12 platforms of trading; facilitating purchases and sales of agrarian and handmade
- 13 products without being constrained to local markets.
- 14 M. The broadband connection will also promote distant learning programs and expand
- 15 overall education levels, which provides important and long-term engines to improve
- 16 the well-being of residents.
- 17 N. In the future, the developed education programs set forth in the Project will help
- 18 indigenous residents to preserve their cultural memory and knowledge systems while
- 19 mastering new knowledge and skills with the support of higher education agencies,
- 20 such as universities, and other non-profit or free education organizations.

21

22 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLED THAT:**

- 23 A. The Navajo Nation supports the Kayenta Chapter's application to the National
- 24 Telecommunications and Information Administration, Funding Opportunity Number
- 25 NTIA-TBC-TBCPO-2021-2006948, for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
- 26 funding.
- 27 B. The Navajo Nation also authorizes and allows the Kayenta Chapter to access and build
- 28 the infrastructure necessary to implement "A Resilient Broadband Solution for Kayenta
- 29 Chapter" in the Black Mesa and Comb Ridge/El Capitan regions.
- 30