

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0099-22_

SPONSOR: Elmer P. Begay

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting the Dilkon Chapter/District Seven Chapters' Application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Funding; Authorizing the Dilkon Chapter and All District Seven Chapters to Access and Build the Infrastructure Necessary to Implement the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Funding

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0099-22

DATE: May 17, 2022

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE DILKON CHAPTER/DISTRICT SEVEN CHAPTERS' APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION FOR TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM FUNDING; AUTHORIZING THE DILKON CHAPTER AND ALL DISTRICT SEVEN CHAPTERS TO ACCESS AND BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM FUNDING

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will provide support for the Dilkon Chapter's application, on behalf of all District Seven Chapters, for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program funding and authorization for all District Seven Chapters to access to and build the infrastructure necessary to implement such funding.

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 _____
6 Primary Sponsor
7 TRACKING NO. 0099-22
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9 AN ACTION
10 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE
11 DILKON CHAPTER/DISTRICT SEVEN CHAPTERS' APPLICATION TO THE
12 NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
13 ADMINISTRATION FOR TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM
14 FUNDING; AUTHORIZING THE DILKON CHAPTER AND ALL DISTRICT
15 SEVEN CHAPTERS TO ACCESS AND BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE
16 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY
17 PROGRAM FUNDING
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 Dilkon Chapter of the Navajo Nation was officially certified as a Local
29 Governance Act ("LGA") Certified Chapter in December 2010. As an LGA Certified
30 Chapter, 26 N.N.C. §§ 101 – 103, the Dilkon 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 Dilkon Chapter, on behalf of all District Seven Chapters, has applied to the
5 National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S.
6 Department of Commerce under Funding Opportunity Number ("FOA"), NTIA-TBC-
7 TBCPO-2021-2006948, for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program funding. The
8 Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") Executive Summary is attached as **Exhibit**
9 **A**. The Dilkon Chapter's application is attached as **Exhibit B**.

10 D. The Dilkon Chapter's application on behalf of all District Seven Chapters for Tribal
11 Broadband Connectivity Program funding is to deploy high quality broadband to over
12 2500 households, as well as technical support, capacity building and connectivity to
13 the Internet. Dilkon Chapter Resolution No. DIL-2021-08-006 is attached as **Exhibit**
14 **C**.

15 E. The Navajo Nation has an estimated poverty rate of 38% with 19% of the populace in
16 extreme poverty. The Navajo Nation also has an estimated unemployment rate of 11%;
17 however, the 11% does not account for the 56% of adult Navajos who are not part of
18 the workforce. If those not part of the workforce were included, the estimated
19 unemployment rate would be close to 70%.

20 F. In the District Seven communities of Dilkon Chapter, Teesto Chapter, Indian Wells
21 Chapter, White Cone Chapter, Jeddito Chapter and Greasewood Springs Chapter, 32%
22 of homes lack electricity, 31% of homes do not have indoor plumbing, 38% of homes
23 lack running water, and almost 100% of homes do not have broadband infrastructure
24 and connectivity.

25 G. The District Seven communities, located on tribal lands in the Southwest region of the
26 Navajo reservation, have the greatest number of households, in an NTIA eligible tribal
27 location, without sufficient internet access, broadband, digital inclusion, telehealth, and
28 distance learning capabilities.

29 H. In 2020, Dilkon Chapter was the recipient of a Bureau of Indian Affairs Broadband
30 Feasibility Grant. The Chapter used the Grant for a now completed feasibility study

1 and design build report covering all of District Seven. The Chapter is now ready to
2 implement the study and report to deploy high quality broadband to over 2500
3 households.

- 4 I. Broadband deployment in District Seven communities will provide access to life-
5 saving technologies, economic development, remote learning and training, workforce
6 development, and generally open new opportunities for information exchange whose
7 importance became critically important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

8
9 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLED THAT:**

- 10 A. The Navajo Nation supports the Dilkon Chapter's application, on behalf of all District
11 Seven chapters, to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration,
12 Funding Opportunity Number NTIA-TBC-TBCPO-2021-2006948, for Tribal
13 Broadband Connectivity Program funding.
- 14 B. The Navajo Nation also authorizes and allows the Dilkon Chapter and all District Seven
15 chapters, to access and build the infrastructure necessary to implement the Tribal
16 Broadband Connectivity Program Funding.