



NAST'ÁJÍ NAHAT'Á HANE' **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH NEWS** **SUMMER COUNCIL SESSION - JULY 2023**





**MESSAGE FROM 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
SPEAKER CRYSTALNYE CURLEY**

Yá'át'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Madam Vice President Richelle Montoya, Madam Chief Justice JoAnn B. Jayne, chapter officials, federal, state, and county officials, legislative staff, and most importantly, to our Diné People. Thank you for joining us as we welcome you to the 2023 Summer Council Session.

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I extend a very special welcome to all of the horse riders, bike riders, and many others who made the challenging journey over the last several days to be with us on the opening day of the session. Over the past week, riders began their journey from their respective communities to honor the tradition started many years ago by our past Navajo leaders.

Long ago, community leaders and Council members rode on horseback or in horse-drawn wagons from their homes to the Council Chamber, bringing with them their community issues and concerns – this tradition continues today and we are proud to share this special occasion with all of our Navajo people, especially our youth and elders.

This year, we also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Navajo Nation Council as the legislative body of our peoples' government. While the development of our government remains a work in progress, we recognize that the will of our people to be a part of the government process has never dwindled. In fact, the call of our people to be involved and informed continues to grow. As leaders, the responsibility to make our government open to the people rests on our shoulders.

Over the course of the last few months, we have begun the initiative of taking our government out to the people in the form of holding Naabik'iyatí Committee meetings in various communities to provide more opportunity for our people to engage with our leaders. In April, we held a Naabik'iyatí Committee meeting in Nageezi, New Mexico and soon we will hold another meeting in Teesto, Arizona.

This initiative allows the opportunity to have our people begin to come back together to recover and heal from the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand that public access to Standing Committee meetings is also a top priority and we continue to take steps to revamp and improve the legislative campus' IT infrastructure capacity to provide stable livestreaming of meetings.

As we continue in the summer season, we encourage everyone to take time to reflect on the teachings of our elders in relation to kinship and decision making. As our grandparents always taught us, Ni'hi'saad ayoo bi'dzil, our spoken words have power to create change that improves the livelihood of our people for many years to come, but we have to work together and move forward on a positive path during this session. Together, we can set another foundation for the next 100 years for our children and grandchildren.

As the 25th Navajo Nation Council convenes for the summer session, I am confident that we will continue to make progress and plan for the future of our Nation. On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I again thank our Diné Citizens for your guidance and support as we move forward. In the past two months, the Office of the Speaker has focused on developing and formalizing internal processes and procedures, which have long been requested by members of the Navajo Nation Council. As the first woman to serve as

the Speaker, it is a top priority to ensure that our foundation is strong and that we have policies and procedures in place to guide our employees and our leaders. In the next few weeks, I will introduce legislation seeking the Naabik'iyatí Committee's support for a plan of operation for the Office of the Speaker. The plan of operation will allow additional internal policies and procedures to be implemented to help Council members and the entire Legislative Branch.

Within the Office of the Speaker, we are also taking on the challenge of re-examining safety protocols for employees, Council Delegates, and the general public. This involves an overall assessment of facilities and the development of safety strategies to help protect the well-being of everyone. With heightened safety concerns across the country, it is important that we take steps to invest in a safer environment.

The Office of the Speaker continues to offer support to each of the Navajo Nation Council's Standing Committees to establish their respective priorities, which will then guide the establishment of the overall priorities for the Council. I appreciate the Budget and Finance Committee's work to develop and approve their priorities through legislation. The Office of the Speaker stands ready to provide additional support to facilitate and formalize priorities with the remaining Standing Committees.

Now and in the coming months, the Office of the Speaker will focus on several key areas in addition to supporting the priorities and initiatives of the Council's Standing Committees, task forces, and subcommittees. These key areas include:

ARPA Funding

The implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding including the \$8.8 million per delegate region is one of a few priorities at the top of the list. Legislative Staff Assistant Sonlatsa Jim is assigned to work with all Council members on the ARPA process and moving projects forward. The encumbrance and expenditure of ARPA funds is a challenging task that requires a great amount of coordination and communication with the Executive Branch. Furthermore, I commend all of the Standing Committees for addressing areas of policy improvements to expedite the processes of the ARPA funding and projects.

I fully understand the urgency to expend ARPA

funds, especially for infrastructure projects that will deliver water, electricity, housing, and other needs for communities and residents. As we move forward, we will schedule additional leadership meetings with the Office of the President and Vice President to work through obstacles and identify solutions to expedite the process. I also congratulate all the chapter governments whose ARPA projects will be considered during the Summer Council Session.

FY2024 Comprehensive Budget/Revenue Generation

On June 28, I met with Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne and signed the Three Branch Chiefs Agreement, which recommends the following General Fund allocations for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 Comprehensive Budget:

• Fixed Costs	\$26,297,968
• External Funds Cash Match	\$4,500,000
• Executive Branch	\$120,390,202
• Legislative Branch	\$18,056,491
• Judicial Branch	\$18,094,114
• <u>Chapters-Non Administrative</u>	<u>\$13,875,225</u>
• Total	\$201,214,000

In addition to the budget allocations, the three branch chiefs also recommend using a portion of personnel cost savings from FY2023 for a five-percent General Wage Adjustment for Navajo Nation employees to help offset the impacts of inflation and \$5 million to help cover costs of the Nation's retirement plan.

According to the Office of the Controller, an additional \$21 million in Permanent Trust Fund interest income is also available for the FY2024 budget.

We, as branch chiefs, recommend prioritizing the funding for senior programs, grazing, farm board, and land board officials, road investments, youth investments, and outdoor market improvements. Elders and youth must be prioritized in the FY2024 Comprehensive Budget. The agreement also recommends setting aside \$20 million from the Nation's Undesignated, Unreserved Fund Balance (UUFB) in the event of a revenue shortfall in FY2025.

We also determined that funding for the next Navajo Nation general election should be allocated under fixed costs to ensure that the Navajo Election Administration receives



Delegate Dr. Andy Nez and Ft. Defiance Chapter summer interns Ryan Jim and Kayleigh Yazzie stand beside Speaker Crystalyne Curley and Legislative District Assistant Amber Benallie.

timely funding to help increase Navajo voter participation and to avoid any uncertainties about funding the next election. Within the Comprehensive Budget, we also look to fund summer youth employment and other necessary initiatives that usually come before the Council later in the fiscal year in the form of supplemental funding requests.

As we move forward with the FY2024 Comprehensive Budget process, the Office of the Speaker will also devote more time and resources toward revenue generation for the Navajo Nation. While coal and oil continue to contribute significantly to our annual revenues and budget, we must think about the future and innovative ways of bringing new revenues to the Nation.

Water Rights

In April, the Office of the Speaker received notice that the Navajo Nation Water Rights Commission established a water rights negotiation team to represent the Navajo Nation in negotiating a water rights settlement with the state of Arizona and other stakeholders. Council Delegates Brenda Jesus, Cheryl Yazzie, Otto Tso, Vince James, Carl Slater, Shawna Claw, Shaandiin Parrish, Herman Daniels, and Germaine Simonson have been appointed along with representatives from the

Executive Branch and several technical experts.

Considering the severe drought conditions in the southwest and particularly in Arizona, negotiating a settlement presents many challenges for all stakeholders including the Navajo Nation. During the most recent negotiation team meeting, I conveyed my commitment and support for the efforts to come together and reach a proposed settlement with the Hopi Tribe before negotiating with other stakeholders.

On June 22, the United States Supreme Court issued a disappointing opinion in the Arizona, ET AL. V. Navajo Nation case that requested the United States to assess the Navajo Nation's water needs and develop a plan to meet them. Despite the outcome, it will not deter the Navajo Nation from securing the water that our ancestors sacrificed and fought for. We will continue to negotiate on behalf of our people and future generations.

On April 24, the Little Colorado River adjudication began in the Maricopa County Superior Court. Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council attended the opening days of the hearing to offer support for the Navajo Nation's case. It took many years to reach this point and many of our past



Speaker Crystalyne Curley stands in front of the Little Sister Rug at the Western Navajo Agency Council meeting. The late Chilchinbeto weaver Helen Charley was one of ten women who wove the Little Sister Rug.

and current leaders have offered depositions in support of the Navajo Nation's claims, including current members of the Council and President Nygren.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council has also received updates on the progress of the water projects associated with the New Mexico and Utah water rights settlements that were finalized by our previous leaders. We look forward to supporting the fund management plans that are being developed for the Utah settlement funds and the completion of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project in New Mexico.

Indian Child Welfare Act

On June 15, the U.S. Supreme Court made a significant ruling in the Brackeen v. Haaland case, upholding that Congress had the constitutional authority to pass ICWA under the Indian Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. They also held ICWA does not violate the anti-commandeering doctrine arising from the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution. In doing so, the Court upheld fundamental principles of Federal Indian Law and Constitutional Law. Navajo Nation leaders and tribal nations across

the country remain united in support and ICWA and we will continue to work with state legislators to protect our children and families from future challenges. I extend my appreciation to my Council colleagues, President Nygren, Attorney General Ethel Branch, and many advocates and organizations who continue to fight for ICWA.

Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force

Under the previous Council, the Naabik'iyatí Committee approved Resolution NABIN-36-22, establishing the Naabik'iyatí Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force to "help combat the missing and murdered Diné relative crisis on and off the Navajo Nation."

On June 22, the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyatí Committee approved Resolution NABIJN-17-23, to appoint members to the Task Force. Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Helena Nez Begay, and Eugenia Charles-Newton were each appointed as representatives of the Naabik'iyatí Committee, Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, and the Law and Order Committee. Legislative Staff Assistant Sonlatsa Jim was also selected to represent the Office of the Speaker on the Task Force.

The Task Force will conduct a study to determine how to increase resources for reporting and identifying missing and murdered relatives, to collaborate with programs, departments, and entities within the Navajo Nation and federal and state agencies to identify barriers to address the crisis and create partnerships to improve the reporting of and the investigations and to improve MMDR's processes for information sharing and coordination of resources in regard to reporting and investigating cases of missing and murdered relatives, and to report the findings and recommendations to the Naabik'iyatí Committee and the Office of the President and Vice President.

Staff is also engaged with the Diné Action Plan Work Group, which utilizes the traditional Navajo planning model of Nitsáhákees (thinking), Nahat'á (planning), liná (action), and Siihásin (reflection) to help address public safety, violence, substance abuse, suicide, and missing and murdered Diné relatives on the Navajo Nation.

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) extension and amendments remains one of the top priorities for the Office of the Speaker and the 25th Navajo Nation Council. In discussions with federal officials and the Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee, it is clear that now is the time to revisit RECA and begin to move forward on congressional legislation that will benefit our Navajo people who worked in uranium mines for the benefit of our country.

In late July, I plan to accompany members of the Navajo Uranium Radiation Victims Committee to urge congressional members and federal officials to move forward with RECA. In June 2022, a two-year extension was approved by Congress and signed by President Biden. However, a long-term solution has yet to be finalized. We have identified challenges, including the financial costs that will make it challenging to address all of the needs including the requests of downwinders. The Office of the Speaker strongly supports the needs of all of our Navajo people who continue to be impacted by uranium exposure and we will continue to work with the Council to advocate and push for the RECA extension and amendments.

Tribal Interior Budget Council

At the end of July, several Council members will attend Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC) meetings to continue developing annual budget requests for programs under the U.S. Department of the Interior, and to advocate for the Navajo Nation.

In the previous TIBC meeting, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council successfully secured several key voting member and co-chair positions under TIBC. For the Navajo Area Region, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and I serve as the Navajo Nation’s primary representatives on TIBC. In 2019, Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton was selected to serve as the co-chair of TIBC’s Public Safety and Justice Sub-Committee, a role that she continues to serve.

Council Delegate Nathan Notah serves on the Land, Water, and Natural Resources Sub-Committee, Council Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie serves on the Public Safety and Justice Sub-Committee, and Council Delegate Otto Tso serves as the co-chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee. Shawna Becenti, who serves as the Head of School for Navajo Preparatory School, was nominated by President Nygren and selected to serve on the Education Sub-Committee.

I thank my Council colleagues, President Nygren, and Navajo Area BIA Director Greg Mehojah for continuing to work together to present a strong and united voice before the Tribal Interior Budget Council. It is important that we continue to carefully coordinate to secure more resources that support our communities. Through these key positions secured by the Council, the Navajo Nation will have greater influence in the federal budget process.

Closing Remarks

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank our Diné people for joining us during the 2023 Summer Council Session. As we move into the next quarter, the Council will begin many more initiatives, including the 2024 budget session, in which all government departments and programs will present their goals and proposed budgets. May this summer season bring many blessings to your families and communities. Ahee’hee’



On Memorial Day, Speaker Crystalayne Curley joined the Blue Star Mothers to advocate for more services and benefits for Navajo Veterans.



Speaker Crystalayne Curley (center) was joined by Apache County Sheriff Joseph Dedman Jr. and Delegate Helena Nez for her trail ride to the 2023 Summer Session of the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

ARIZONA GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS WILL WORK DIRECTLY WITH THE NAVAJO NATION ON CRITICAL ISSUES

Window Rock, Ariz. - During the opening day of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Summer Session, history was made when Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs presented a report before the Council, addressing water rights, broadband connectivity, and assuring the Council that their voices will be heard at the Arizona State Legislature.

Governor Hobbs's visit marks the first time that a sitting Arizona Governor has provided a report during a Council session.

"On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank Governor Hobbs for providing a report before the Navajo people. On this historic day, Governor Katie Hobbs honored the Council by attending the Summer Session and engaging with our leaders on issues that impact the lives of our people," Speaker Curley said. "Her visit gives us hope for future partnerships and support on issues that are critical to the Navajo Nation."

Preceding her report, Governor Hobbs met with the 25th Navajo Nation Council as a group, where she listened to their concerns and requests for advocacy.

During the meeting, delegates addressed public safety, first responder substations, cross commissioning of Arizona police officers, school safety, water rights in Arizona, emergency response assistance for natural disasters, remediation of abandoned uranium mines, broadband expansion in relation to education, and voting rights.

In her report before the 25th Navajo Nation Council Summer Session, Governor Hobbs affirmed her administration's

commitment to addressing water rights for tribes in Arizona and noted that Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President Chief Legal Counsel Bidtah Becker has been appointed to the state Water Policy Council.

"Arizona must face the lack of investment that has faced Native peoples thus far. I believe in responsible water management. On this issue and more, we'll work directly with the Navajo Nation and other Native communities," she said. "We'll continue this work to ensure that Arizona and all Arizona tribes have an opportunity to thrive. I realize our shared goals and together we can move the state forward."

Governor Hobbs took two questions before Council from Delegates Shawna Ann Claw (Chinle) and Delegate Casey Allen Johnson (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake).

Delegate Claw asked how the Governor's Office plans to support veteran's programs and how they can help ensure resources are deployed to communities experiencing natural disasters. Delegate Johnson said the Navajo Nation needs her support on the water rights adjudication.

In her response, the governor said that across the board, her office and the state legislature will include tribal voices by enhancing the number of tribal liaisons within task forces.

"We'll make sure that tribal veterans get the services they are entitled to. We're able to provide support for natural disasters and emergency requests. Please reach out to us," Governor Hobbs said. "We are absolutely committed to



Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs affirmed her administration's commitment to addressing water rights for tribes in Arizona.



Governor Hobbs met with the 25th Navajo Nation Council and listened to their concerns.

re-engage with tribes on the water rights settlement, which has stalled at the state level. You have my work that we will be engaged."

On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Vince R. James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kinlichee, Steamboat) presented the governor with an honorary gift of a traditionally made pottery. The Council and Speaker Curley gathered to present the gift.

"There are many issues that face

our constituents in Chapters that lie within county boundaries. We need the state to come to the table to partner with the Navajo Nation to help support projects that will improve our communities," Speaker Curley said. "Today, Governor Hobbs told us that she'll continue to work directly with the Navajo Nation and other tribal nations to bring progress to the issues we presented."

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN WALK TO RAISE AWARENESS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

Window Rock, Ariz. - On July 17, 25th Navajo Nation Council Delegates Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock) and Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley Tse'alnaozt'i'i, Sheepsprings, Beclabito, Gadiiahi/To'Koi) participated in the Annual Angels Vs. Drunk Drivers Awareness Walk to raise awareness against drunk driving fatalities.

The walk was hosted by the Peshlakai Family on opening day of the 2023 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session beginning at the Window Rock fairgrounds to the Council Chamber, where they were welcomed by the delegates and public.

"Today is a beautiful day. This year there are more people than expected, which is great because we can reach more people. We are using our tragedy to keep both of my daughter's memory alive because they didn't die for no reason. It brings a tear to my heart, but it also brings joy because I get to speak their names, educate, and spread awareness of drunk driving. That is the goal," said Darlene Peshlakai.

Darlene and Dave Peshlakai continue to mourn a loss that any parent fears. Their young daughters, Deshauna and Del Lynn, were only 17 and 19-years-old when they were killed by a repeat offender drunk driver on March 5, 2010. Just a few hours before, the family was together making their way home after they had spent the day together at a basketball game. In one moment, their lives were altered forever.

Thirteen years have passed, and the pain comes and goes, according to Darlene. Over time, she's learned to harness the abyss of emotions into advocacy for her children and for all who have been killed due to a drunk driver. Keeping Deshauna and Del Lynn on the minds and in the voices of many has ignited her determination to share awareness and work closely with law enforcement to help reduce drunk driving.

The family began community events such as awareness walks, motorcycle rallies, and speaking events. They have also partnered with the New Mexico Police Department to



Miss Navajo Nation 2022-2023 Valentina Clitso, Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, and Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton joined the Peshlakai family in an awareness walk to end drunk driving.

stage DWI checkpoints throughout the state, which have resulted in arrests of persons who were driving intoxicated. At these checkpoints, they distribute statistics and informational resources along with coffee tumblers and water bottles that have their daughters' names etched over angel wings. They give these gifts to humanize their daughters' stories so they are not merely a statistic.

"As leaders, we are going to take a stance against drunk driving and how it impacts the families, and how so many of us have been impacted," said Delegate Crotty, who also shared an emotional and personal story of her brother, who was killed by a drunk driver. The driver had eight previous DWI arrests, with the ninth leading to the fatality of her brother.

According to the 2020-2021 New Mexico Department of Transportation report, the number of fatalities in alcohol-related crashes increased from 145 in to 178, the highest number in at least a decade. The report ranks McKinley County as having the fourth highest number of alcohol-related crashes in the state.

"We need consistent checkpoints on the Navajo Nation. We need a lot more and for them to be more frequent," said Peshlakai as she spoke of actionable needs that will make an impact to reduce fatalities and crashes overall.

In addition to stiffer penalties, she spoke about the need for rehabilitation on the Nation so those who struggle with alcoholism can seek help, resources, and understanding.

Chair of the Law the Order Committee, Eugenia Charles-Newton, stated that she stands behind the Navajo Nation Police Department's stance that penalties are not strict enough.

"We need to increase jail times and fines, we cannot allow people to be processed and get back on the road," said Delegate Charles-Newton. "Listening to the Peshlakai's story of their daughters is emotional and I still think about the family since the day I first met them. As a mother, losing a child like that, something has to change."

THREE BRANCH CHIEFS SIGN PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DINÉ ELDERS AND SENIOR CITIZENS DAY



Speaker Crystalyne Curley joined Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Navajo Nation Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne in signing a proclamation recognizing July 19 as Diné Elders Day and Senior Citizens Day.

Window Rock, Ariz. – On July 19, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley joined Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Navajo Nation Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne in signing a proclamation recognizing July 19 as Diné Elders Day and Senior Citizens Day.

The signing took place at Quality

Inn with many Navajo Agency senior centers being represented at the event. Speaker Curley expressed her gratitude to all Navajo Nation senior center staff.

“You go out of your way to help our elders and it takes a lot of money to provides these valuable services,” she said. “In our three-branch agreement for the Fiscal

Year 2024 budget, our priority is funding programs for our elders.”

At the signing, Speaker Curley was joined by Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie (Dilcon, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone, Greasewood Springs), Delegate Shaandiin Parrish (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta), Delegate Dr. Andy Nez (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill), Delegate George Tolth (Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor), Delegate Lomardo Aseret (Klagetoh, Wide Ruins, Houck, Lupton, Nahata Dziil), Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock), Delegate Helena Nez (Coppermine, K'aibii'to, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake, Bodaway/Gap), Delegate Casey Allen Johnson (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake) and Delegate Germaine Simonson (Hard Rock, Forest Lake, Pinon, Black Mesa, Whippoorwill).

“By recognizing Diné Elders Day, we are committed to addressing elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation by promoting elder justice and providing protection for residents of long-term facilities through the assistance of pertinent Navajo departments and divisions,” Speaker Curley

said.

Day three of the 2023 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session was Elder Day in which elder attendees were recognized, honored, and provided a complimentary luncheon provided by Bidii Chidi and sponsored by the Navajo Arts & Crafts Enterprise.

Elder Mary Holtsoi of Pinedale, N.M., 93, was recognized before council. Holtsoi is the mother of 14 children, has 40 grandchildren, and has been a lifetime voter of the Navajo Nation.

In a recognition ceremony held before the Council session started, the late rug weaver Helen Charley of Chilchinbeto Chapter was honored by Delegate Parrish.

“We honor her role as one of the eleven women from the Chilchinbeto community who wove the world-famous Big Sister Rug, Ádí, and one of ten women who wove the Little Sister Rug. These rugs have gained a place in Navajo history and are recognized throughout the world,” Speaker Curley said. “I want to extend my gratitude to all our elders for continuing to pass along our traditional teachings.”

COUNCIL APPROVES THE SAN JUAN RIVER MITIGATION FUND FOR FARMERS AFFECTED BY THE GOLD KING MINE SPILL

Window Rock, Ariz. – On day three of the Navajo Nation Council Summer Session, Council Delegate Rickie Nez (T'iistoh Sikaad, Nenahnezad, Upper Fruitland, Tse' Daa' Kaan, Newcomb, San Juan) presented Legislation No. 0033-23, establishing the San Juan River Mitigation Fund as a depository for the litigation and settlement funds from various Gold King Mine litigations including criteria pertaining to expenditures for the fund.

On August 5, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and its contractors experienced a blowout during an excavation of the Gold King Mine that is located near Silverton, CO. Approximately two hundred miles of the San Juan River were affected by at least three million gallons of toxic acid mine wastewater that flowed into a tributary of the Animas River which flows into the San Juan River and the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation filed a lawsuit on August 16, 2016, against the U.S. EPA and its contractors along with several mining companies in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico.

Nine chapters were impacted by the spill including Upper Fruitland, Nenahnezad, San Juan, Hogback, Shiprock, Cudeii, Red Mesa, Aneth, and Hochi Toh.

According to the legislation, the contaminated water and soil have

severely impacted farmers and ranchers who suffered financial losses and hardships as they could no longer plant and harvest their crops, sell livestock, and meat derived from livestock could not be sold, affecting their sole sources of income.

Delegate Nez spoke about the financial challenges the ranchers and farmers are continuing to navigate. He stressed to the council that the affected ranchers and farmers need assistance as



they cannot carry this burden on their own accord.

“There are many idle farms along the San Juan River still to this day. Based on what the farmers have asked, we do need to create an expenditure plan,” said Delegate Nez.

This legislation was originally introduced by Delegate Nez in February 2022, however, during spring session, the legislation was tabled to allow lawmakers time to meet with the community to receive input directly from the farmers and ranchers as to where they would like the funds to be directed.

On May 4, 2023, several ranchers and farmers met with the 25th Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley and several delegates in Nenahnezad, N.M. They recommended utilizing the funds for various projects along the river including the rehabilitation of irrigation canals, infrastructure improvements, operations and maintenance, materials and

equipment, culvert diversion, pump station/insulation, rodent control, and research for the cost of proper operations, maintenance, and construction of a filter station and reservoirs.

At the request of Delegate Nez, Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch provided clarification on the fund language within the legislation breaking down settlements from various parties involved in the litigations and settlement.

During the May 4 meeting, Attorney General Branch explained that of the \$31 million, \$3 million is in the form of grant funding which is deemed restricted funds, and \$14.5 million is for legal fees and expenses, which leaves \$13.5 million that will be deposited into the San Juan River Mitigation Fund once the legislation is approved.

The Attorney General stated the funding amount could potentially be increased due to ongoing settlements adding another \$10



Delegate Rickie Nez said that affected farmers and ranchers along the San Juan River need assistance. million totaling approximately \$41 million dollars. Branch also indicated that she anticipates those additional funds to be increased within the next six months to a year.

Branch further explained that the San Juan River Mitigation Fund limits the use of the funds to environmental technical studies, water quality monitoring activities and/or preventative and corrective measures necessary to

address potential contamination and implementing a Navajo Nation EPA Communications Strategy. Legislation 0033-23 passed with a vote of 19 in favor and zero opposed. Once the resolution is certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution.

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL SUPPORTS IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT ALL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND COUNCIL SESSIONS

Window Rock, Ariz. - On July 20, the 25th Navajo Nation Council voted to uphold in-person attendance for council delegates at all standing committee meetings and council sessions.

Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley Tse’alnozt’i’i, Sheepsprings, Beclabito, Gadiiahi/To’Koi) sponsored Legislation 0147-23 to codify virtual attendance by Council Delegates at standing committee meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions.

The legislation sponsor said the move to keep virtual attendance

in place would help maintain quorum in situations where scheduling might cause delegates to be absent.

“We have to look at the reality of the situation. There is a need for some flexibility because of our duties, our safety, and our mental health, and how we conduct business at the committee level,” Delegate Crotty said. “If delegates are provided a virtual option, they can still participate.”

The implementation of virtual attendance at standing committee meetings and council sessions was an emergency measure put in effect during the COVID-19



Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty sponsored Legislation 0147-23 to codify virtual attendance by Council Delegates at standing committee meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions.

pandemic to help the Navajo Nation’s governing body continue to operate without violating public health orders.







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On June 15, 2023, Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren and the Commission on Emergency Management issued CEM-23-06-15, deactivating the March 11, 2020, Public Health State of Emergency, returning Navajo Nation government operations to pre-COVID-19-status.

The deactivation of the Public Health State of Emergency effectively ended the use of virtual and hybrid in-person meetings.

Delegate Nathan Notah (Coyote

Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl'a'a') proposed an amendment requiring in-person attendance only at the four major Navajo Nation Council sessions held each year but keeping virtual attendance in place for standing committee meetings and special council meetings.

"We do have an obligation to be here for the people we serve," he said. "I think we should be here for the major council sessions."

The amendment didn't carry.

Delegate Carl Slater (Tsaile/Wheatfields, Lukachukai, Round Rock, Tséch'izhí, Rock Point) supported the circumstance that having delegates in the chambers is important.

"We lose our humanity. We lose the ability to see eye-to-eye," Delegate Slater said. "We are going to lose accountability because there is a difference between being at home and being here. All our constituents can see us here and that's accountability. I strongly disagree with the virtual option."

When it came down to voting on the main motion, because the legislation made changes to Title 2, it required a two-thirds vote of the full council to pass, which would have been 16 votes in favor.

Legislation 0147-23 had 15 votes in favor and 7 opposed. The main motion failed, and the Council upheld their support for in-person attendance for all standing committee meetings and council sessions.

COUNCIL APPROVES AMENDMENT TO THE SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT IN TITLE 17 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE

Window Rock, Ariz.— On the final day of the 2023 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session, Council Delegate and Chairperson of the Law & Order Committee, Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock) presented Legislation No. 0104-23, an amendment to the Sex Offenders Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) in Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code.

The purpose of this legislation is to amend the SORNA allowing civilian employees of the Navajo Nation Police Department to assist in timely registering of sexual offenders. The civilian employees will also assist with other administrative related duties.

Currently, SORNA requires a Navajo Police Officer to register sex offenders. However, due to the need for Officers to be active in the field and to respond to emergency situations when on duty, the Navajo Police stations do not always have officers on-site to conduct registration.

Delegate Charles-Newton and Co-Sponsor Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley Tse'alnaozt'ii', Sheepsprings,

Beclabito, Gadiiahi/To'Koi) introduced the legislation through work groups that were led by the Law & Order Committee and the Chief Prosecutor.

The Navajo Nation Department of Justice reviewed the proposed amendments and deemed them to be legally sufficient. The proposed Title 17 amendments to the criminal statutes went before the 24th Navajo Nation Council, however the Council exhausted time before voting on the amendments.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council determined that the amendments to Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act are necessary and vital to ensure adequate deterrence and punishment for sexual offenses that threaten the Navajo populace, including Navajo families and Navajo communities.

In May of 2023, the legislation was heard before the Law & Order Committee and passed with four in favor and zero opposed. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee also voted in support of the bill with 18 in favor and zero opposed. "Hopefully with this passage of this legislation, it will give

time back to the Navajo Nation Police Officers so they are able to have more presence in the field increasing the protection of our relatives," said Delegate Charles-Newton.

Offenders who are convicted are required to register within three business days providing identifier information, including DNA samples, photographs, residential and school addresses, email addresses and social media identifiers, professional licensing, name of employer and additional personal information. Sex offenders are also required to maintain their registration in accordance with the tier level of the sex offense for which the sex offender has been convicted.

Every sex offender convicted of a sex offense that requires registration by another jurisdiction and who has come into the Navajo Nation to reside, work or go to school shall initially register with the Navajo Police Department within three business days of coming into the Nation. A non-Indian convicted sex offender who fails to register or who absconds will be arrested and placed into federal custody for consideration for federal



Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton sponsored legislation to amend SORNA allowing civilian employees of the Navajo Police Department to assist in registering of sexual offenders.

prosecution.

"The Navajo Police Department strongly supports this legislation. As the primary law enforcement program enforcing Title 17 on the Navajo Nation, we are well placed to recognize needed changes as practical circumstances arise in implementation and execution of sections of the criminal code," stated Daryl Noon, Chief of Police for the Navajo Police Department.

Legislation No. 0104-23 passed by simple majority vote with 18 in favor and zero opposed on July 21. Once the resolution is certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution.

NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL SUPPORTS INCREASED FUNDING FOR NAVAJO VETERANS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Window Rock, Ariz. - On Friday, July 21, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation 008-23 to allocate additional funding from the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund set-aside to Navajo veterans programs and services by amending Title 12 of the Navajo Nation Code.

Legislation 108-23 was sponsored by Carl Slater (Tsaile/Wheatfields, Lukachukai, Round Rock, Tséché'izhí, Rock Point).

"This legislation will make sure more money goes into veterans assistance, as it was originally designed, instead of a very high amount being reinvested into the trust fund," Delegate Slater said. "If we had kept things as is, then there would only be \$1.85 million

for veterans assistance. With this fix, there will be \$5.14 million for veterans assistance."

The Veterans Trust Fund set-aside is funded through the Navajo Nation Council's allocation of four-percent of all projected annual revenues in the Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget. Half of the four-percent is allocated for veterans programs, services, and benefits and the other half is allocated for the veterans housing program.

Since the establishment of the Veterans Trust Fund, the needs of Navajo veterans have increased but due to conflicting statutory interpretations within Title 12, the amount of funds available for veteran's programs and services has not met the needs.

The proposed language in the legislation would allocate more funds to Navajo veterans programs, services, and direct financial assistance. The remaining half of the four percent will still be allocated to the Navajo Veterans Housing Program.

"The 25th Navajo Nation Council has listened to the voices of our Navajo veterans who have called for increased funding of veterans programs and services while avoiding any shortfalls to these areas moving forward," said Council Delegate Carl Slater, who is the primary sponsor of the bill. He added that the legislation will benefit thousands of Navajo veterans who rely on the assistance through the Veterans Administration.

On June 20, during a regular meeting of the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Budget and Finance Committee, Delegate Slater said the proposed amendments provide the "technical fix" needed to rectify conflicting language that was previously adopted in 2018 and 2021.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0108-23 with a vote of 18 in favor and one opposed. Once the resolution is certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have ten calendar days to consider the resolution.

NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL HONORS THE LIFE OF ESTEEMED NAVAJO WEAVER HELEN CHARLEY

Window Rock, Ariz. - On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Crystalne Curley offers her sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of Helen Charley, an esteemed Navajo woman weaver from the community of Chilchinbeto, Arizona.

Helen Charley passed away on Friday, June 30, at the age of 93-years-old. She was Tábaqhá, born for Tó'aheedlíinii, her maternal grandfather was Deeshchii'nii, and her paternal grandfather was Honágháahnii.

She had one son, the late David J. Charley. She also adopted and raised four of her sister's children and three of her aunt's children. From the children she raised, she has 31 grandchildren.

"Her contributions to the Navajo Nation as a weaver and a resilient member of our community will always be remembered and cherished. We honor her role as one of the eleven women from the Chilchinbeto community who wove the world-famous Big Sister Rug, Ádí, and also one of ten women who wove the Little Sister Rug. These rugs have gained a place in Navajo history and are

recognized throughout the world," Speaker Curley said.

Ingrained in the grand visual of these tremendous rugs is hard work, meticulous effort, complex mathematics and geometry, and the sheering, carding, and dyeing of wools.

Charley's niece, Jane Begay said her aunt was assertive and stern in her teachings about attaining one's livelihood.

"She would tell you exactly what she expected from you. She would say, 'It's up to you. This is how it is. Don't just stay home and do nothing,'" Begay said. "She helped the community of Chilchinbeto with her earnest opinion. She showed excellent leadership, had good judgment, and she was a blessing to many."

The 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the Speaker offer their prayers and condolences to the family, friends, and community of Helen Charley. In honor of Helen Charley and all her accomplishments, the Office of the Speaker will present Charley's family with a Navajo Nation flag in



Helen Charley was one of ten women who wove the Little Sister Rug. These rugs have gained a place in Navajo history.

remembrance of her life and legacy.

"Nihimasání, our grandmother, Helen Charley contributed to teaching and preserving our Navajo culture, tradition, and language," Speaker Curley added. "May her legacy bring you comfort during this difficult time."

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL HONORS PAST LEADERS WITH SUMMER SESSION TRAIL RIDES

The start of the 2023 Summer Council Session kicked off with the annual Trail Rides from various regions of the Navajo Nation. The trail rides honor past leaders who would ride to the capital of the Navajo Nation on horseback, stopping in communities along the way to meet with community members, and share their input and concerns when they reached the Council Chamber for the start of each Council session.

Many participants spent several days traveling many miles by horseback, bicycle, and walking to Window Rock, Ariz. to officially begin the Summer Session. As the groups arrived on Sunday, July 16th, over 500 people along with 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, and Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne welcomed participants to the Window Rock fairgrounds where each group was provided time to speak about their journey and advocacy along the way.

“On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I thank all of the groups for joining us for the Summer Session. Together, we thank them for making the long and challenging journey to honor our past leaders and to meet with constituents along their routes. Each year, our Council members carry with them the concerns and recommendations from their communities and speak on their behalf during each of the Council sessions. As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Navajo Nation Council, we take this time to reflect and thank our past leaders,” said Speaker Curley.

Council Delegates Dr. Andy Nez, Rickie Nez, Helena Nez Begay,

Brenda Jesus, Vince R. James, Casey Allen Johnson, Seth Damon, Shawna Ann Claw, Shaandiin Parrish, Carl Slater, Nathan Notah, Germain Simonson, and Speaker Curley were among the delegates who made the long and challenging journey from their respective communities.

On Monday morning, the groups made their way from the fairgrounds to the Council Chamber for the start of the Summer Council Session, in which Council members, Legislative and Executive staff, and spectators greeted them. Council members were provided the opportunity to address the Navajo people. Council Delegate Vince James provided a blessing as the trail riders arrived.

The Shiprock Chapter Veterans Organization posted the colors at the start of the session, Tonisah Draper of Chinle, Arizona sang the National Anthem in the Navajo language, Rough Rock Community School students and Miss Navajo Nation Valentina Clitso recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and Dr. Louva Dahozy provided the invocation at the start of the session.

On the opening day, the 25th Navajo Nation Council received the State of the Navajo Nation Address from Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Vice President Richelle Montoya, and written reports from Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, Indian Health Service, Office of the Controller, and the Office of the Attorney General. On the second day of the session, the Council also received an oral report from the Navajo Area Bureau of Indian Affairs.



Delegate Helena Nez Begay addresses the trail riders at the Navajo Nation fairgrounds.



Delegate Nathan Notah passes Blackhat, N.M., on his way to his final destination.



Delegate Brenda Jesus and her trail riders arrive in Window Rock, Ariz.

LEGISLATION NO. 0120-23

LEGISLATION NO. 0122-23

LEGISLATION NO. 0126-23

LEGISLATION NO. 0127-23

LEGISLATION NO. 0140-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-12-23, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Norman M. Begay's Delegate Region (Chapters: Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee). To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-12-23, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.'s Delegate Region (Chapters: Tsah Bii Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Oljato). To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-12-23, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Seth Damon's Delegate Region (Chapters: Baahaali, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh). To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-12-23, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Nathan Notah's Delegate Region (Chapters: Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl'a'a'). To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-12-23, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Lomardo Aseret's Delegate Region (Chapters: Klagetoh, Wide Ruins, Houck, Lupton, Nahata Dziil), To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

Sponsor:
Honorable Norman M. Begay

Sponsor:
Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.

Sponsor:
Honorable Seth Damon

Sponsor: Honorable Nathan Notah

Sponsor: Honorable Lomardo Aseret

Action: Passed

Action: Passed

Action: Passed

Action: Passed

Action: Passed

Yeas: 21
Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Yeas: 21
Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Yeas: 21
Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Yeas: 21
Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Yeas: 21
Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Nays: 0

Nays: 0

Nays: 0

Nays: 0

Excused:
Yanito, C
Damon, S

Excused:
Yanito, C
Damon, S

Excused:
Yanito, C
Damon, S

Excused:
Yanito, C
Damon, S

Excused:
Yanito, C
Damon, S

Presiding Speaker
Curley, C

Presiding Speaker
Curley, C

Presiding Speaker
Curley, C

Presiding Speaker
Curley, C

Presiding Speaker
Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0148-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-12-23, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Andy Nez, PH.D's Delegate Region (Chapters: Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill), To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Andy Nez

Action: Passed

Yeas: 21

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Yanito, C
Damon, S

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0149-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-12-23, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie's Delegate Region (Chapters: Dilkon, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone, Greasewood Springs), To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie

Action: Passed

Yeas: 21

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Yanito, C
Damon, S

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0145-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-12-23, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty's Delegate Region (Chapters: Cove, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi' (Sheepsprings), Tse' Alnaozt'I'I, Beclabito, Gadiiahi/To'koi), To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

Action: Passed

Yeas: 21

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Yanito, C
Damon, S

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0079-23

An Action Relating to the Law and Order, Health, Education, and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending 2 N.N.C. § 403, Meeting day for the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Vince R. James

Action: Passed

Yeas: 21

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Yanito, C
Damon, S

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0141-23

An Action Relating to Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'iyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Resolution No. CF-05-23 to Remove the Funds Reversion Deadline for the Ganado Fire District Emergency Vehicle Expenditure Plan

Sponsor: Honorable Vince R. James

Action: Passed

Yeas: 21

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Yanito, C
Damon, S

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0025-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Purchase of Property Offered for Sale to the Navajo Nation by the Owners of Goulding's Monument Valley Lodge and Tours, Monument Valley, Utah; Approving the Expenditure of Fund Principal of the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to Purchase the Property; and Approving a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity (2/3) - required 16 supporting votes to pass

Sponsor: Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.

Action: Failed

Yeas: 15

Arviso, S
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G

Nays: 4

Simonson, G
Aseret, L
Nez, A
Yazzie, C

Excused:

Damon, S

Not Voting: 3

Nez, R
Tso, O
Yanito, C

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0033-23

An Action Relating to Resources and Development, Education, and Human Services, Law and Order, Budget and Finance and Naabik'iyáti Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Establishing the San Juan River Mitigation Fund; Directing that Monies Received from In Re: Gold King Mine Release in San Juan County, Colorado, on August 15, 2015, No. 1:18-md-02824 (D.N.M.) and Underlying and Related Actions be Deposited in the San Juan River Mitigation Fund After Reimbursement of Litigation Costs (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Rickie Nez

Action: Passed

Yeas: 19

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Damon, S
James, V

Not Voting: 2

Yanito, C
Simonson, G

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0052-23

An Action Relating to the Law and Order, Resources and Development, and Naabik'iyáti Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending 2 N.N.C. §104 and 11 N.N.C. §8(B) to Prohibit Council Delegates from Serving as Board Members and Shareholder Representatives for Navajo Nation-Owned Instrumentalities (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

Action: Referred to a Naabik'iyáti Committee Work Session no later than the NNC Fall Session

Yeas: 11

Begay, H
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Daniels, H
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Tolth, G
Tso, O

Nays: 8

Arivso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, N
Crotty, A
Parrish, S
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Yazzie, C

Excused:

Damon, S
James, V

Not Voting:

Yanito, C
Simonson, G

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0051-23

An Action Relating to the Law and Order, and Naabik'iyáti Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Rescinding CJA-01-18 Relating to Agreements Not Requiring Navajo Nation Council or Committee Approval, to Provide for Transparency and Accountability (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

Action: Passed

Yeas: 19

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Damon, S
James, V

Not Voting: 2

Yanito, C
Begay, N

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0115-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CAP-12-23, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Shaandiin Parrish's Delegate Region (Chapters: Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta), To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Shaandiin Parrish

Action: Passed

Yeas: 20

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Daniels, H
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Damon, S
James, V

Not Voting: 1

Yanito, C

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0125-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CD-62-22, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Crystalyne Curley's Delegate Region (Chapters: Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain) (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Crystalyne Curley

Action: Passed

Yeas: 19

Aseret, L
 Begay, H
 Begay, N
 Claw, S
 Crotty, A
 Curley, C
 Daniels, H
 Jesus, B
 Johnson, C
 Nez, A
 Nez, R
 Notah, N
 Parrish, S
 Simonson, G
 Simpson, D
 Slater, C
 Tolth, G
 Tso, O
 Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Damon, S
 James, V

Not Voting: 2

Arviso, S
 Yanito, C

Presiding Speaker

Charles-Newton, E

LEGISLATION NO. 0128-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Carl R. Slater's Delegate Region (Chapters: Tsaile/Wheatfields, Lukachukai, Round Rock, Tsech'izhi, Rock Point)(2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Carl Slater

Action: Passed

Yeas: 20

Aseret, L
 Begay, H
 Begay, N
 Charles-Newton, E
 Claw, S
 Crotty, A
 Daniels, H
 James, V
 Jesus, B
 Johnson, C
 Nez, A
 Nez, R
 Notah, N
 Parrish, S
 Simonson, G
 Simpson, D
 Slater, C
 Tolth, G
 Tso, O
 Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Damon, S

Not Voting: 2

Arviso, S
 Yanito, C

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0130-23

An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'iyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$5,000,000 from the Sihasin Fund to Navajo EPA for the Assessment and Remediation of Environmental Damage from Former Lumber Processing Operations at the Red Lake and Sawmill Chapters; Approving the Related Expenditure Plan (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Andy Nez

Action: Referred to a Naabik'iyáti Committee Work Session no later than the NNC Winter Session

Yeas: 10

Crotty, A
 Curley, C
 Jesus, B
 Nez, A
 Notah, N
 Parrish, S
 Simonson, G
 Simpson, D
 Slater, C
 Yazzie, C

Nays: 9

Begay, H
 Begay, N
 Charles-Newton, E
 Claw, S
 Daniels, H
 James, V
 Johnson, C
 Nez, R
 Tolth, G

Excused:

Damon, S

Not Voting: 4

Arviso, S
 Aseret, L
 Tso, O
 Yanito, C

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0133-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending CMY-42-23, The Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable Danny Simpson's Delegate Region (Chapters: Becenti, Lake Valley, Nahodishgish, Standing Rock, White Rock, Huerfano, Nageezi, Crownpoint), To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable Danny Simpson

Action: Passed

Yeas: 18

Begay, H
 Begay, N
 Charles-Newton, E
 Claw, S
 Crotty, A
 Daniels, H
 James, V
 Jesus, B
 Johnson, C
 Nez, A
 Nez, R
 Notah, N
 Parrish, S
 Simonson, G
 Simpson, D
 Slater, C
 Tolth, G
 Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused:

Damon, S

Not Voting: 4

Arviso, S
 Aseret, L
 Tso, O
 Yanito, C

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0134-23

An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Extending the CF-07-11 Designation of Savings from Personnel Accounts as Restricted Carryover Funds to be Used for Administering and Maintaining the Classification and Pay Plans, Extending the CF-07-11 Moratorium on Budget Revisions and/or Re-Allocations using Savings from the General Fund Personnel Savings, Establishing the Personnel Saving Fund (2/3)-required 16 supporting votes to pass

Sponsor: Honorable Seth Damon

Action: Passed

Yeas: 22

Arviso, S
 Aseret, L
 Begay, H
 Begay, N
 Charles-Newton, E
 Claw, S
 Crotty, A
 Damon, S
 Daniels, H
 James, V
 Jesus, B
 Johnson, C
 Nez, A
 Nez, R
 Notah, N
 Parrish, S
 Simonson, G
 Simpson, D
 Slater, C
 Tolth, G
 Tso, O
 Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Not Voting: 1

Yanito, C

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C



LEGISLATION NO. 0147-23

An Action Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'iyáti Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions (2/3)- required 16 supporting votes to pass

Sponsor: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty

Action: Failed

Yeas: 7

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Charles-Newton, E
Crotty, A
James, V
Simonson, G

Nays: 15

Begay, N
Claw, S
Damon, S
Daniels, H
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Tso, O
Yazzie, C

Not Voting: 1

Arviso, S

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0146-23

An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance, the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving \$2,500,000 from the Sihasin Fund to Utah State University for a New Education Building in Monument Valley, Approving the Related Expenditure Plan (2/3)-required 16 supporting votes to pass

Sponsor: Honorable Herman M. Daniels Jr.

Action: Failed

Yeas: 15

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Damon, S
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G

Nays: 6

Crotty, A
Johnson, C
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Yazzie, C

Excused:

Tso, O

Not Voting: 1

Yanito, C

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0150-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Delegate Region Project Plan for Honorable George H. Tolth's Delegate Region (Chapters: Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor), To include Additional Projects for this Delegate Region (2/3)

Sponsor: Honorable George H. Tolth

Action: Passed

Yeas: 20

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Claw, S
Crotty, A
Damon, S
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused: 2

Tso, O
Yanito, C

Not Voting: 1

Johnson, C

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0044-23

An Action Relating to the Resources and Development Committee, the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Adopting the Latest International Building Code (ICC's 2021 International Building Code) as Applicable to Commercial and Government Buildings Constructed by the Navajo Nation Government and its Entities and Political Subdivisions

Sponsor: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

Action: Passed

Yeas: 15

Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Crotty, A
Damon, S
Daniels, H
James, V
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Tolth, G

Nays: 5

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Claw, S
Johnson, C
Yazzie, C

Excused: 3

Jesus, B
Tso, O
Yanito, C

Not Voting: 0

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0104-23

An Action Relating to the Law and Order the Naabik'iyáti Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Sex Offenders Registration and Notification Act in Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code

Sponsor: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

Action: Passed

Yeas: 18

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Slater, C
Tolth, G
Yanito, C
Yazzie, C

Nays: 0

Excused: 3

Claw, S
Crotty, A
Tso, O

Not Voting: 2

Simpson, D
Damon, S

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C

LEGISLATION NO. 0108-23

An Action Relating to the Law and Order, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'iyáti Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Amendments to the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. §1171 - §1178

Sponsor: Honorable Carl R. Slater

Action: Passed

Yeas: 18

Arviso, S
Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Charles-Newton, E
Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B
Johnson, C
Nez, A
Nez, R
Notah, N
Parrish, S
Simonson, G
Simpson, D
Slater, C
Yanito, C
Yazzie, C

Nays: 1

Tolth, G

Excused: 3

Claw, S
Crotty, A
Tso, O

Not Voting: 1

Damon, S

Presiding Speaker

Curley, C



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