

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0220-23\_

SPONSOR: Danny Simpson

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resource and Development Committee and Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting United States Senate Bill 1898, Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Plan Amendments Act of 2023 Danny Simpson**

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**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0220-23

**DATE:** September 1, 2023

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 1898, NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2023

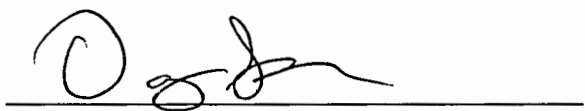
**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this legislation is to approve the Navajo Nation's support for Senate Bill 1898, SHORT TITLE "Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act of 2023," as introduced by Senator Luján into the United States Senate on June 8, 2023.

**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.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD Al McK...  
Website Posting Time/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 09/10/23  
Eligible for Action: 09/11/23

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—First Year, 2023

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0220-23

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATE  
BILL 1898, NAVAJO-GALLUP WATER SUPPLY PROJECT AMENDMENTS  
ACT OF 2023

**WHEREAS:**

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).
- B. The Navajo Nation Council established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and empowered the Naabik'iyáti' Committee to coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701 (A) (6).
- C. The Resources and Development Committee has oversight authority over water and land for various purposes including promoting projects to be financed by funds designated for capital improvements. 2 N.N.C. § 500 (C) (5).
- D. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States government.

- 1 E. United States Senator Ben Ray Luján, on June 8, 2023, introduced Senate Bill 1898  
2 which has the SHORT TITLE “Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Amendments Act  
3 of 2023.” Senate Bill 1898 is attached as **Exhibit A**.
- 4 F. The United States House of Representative Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez  
5 on June 9, 2023 introduced House of Representatives Bill H.R. 3977. Bill H.R. 3977,  
6 is the companion bill to Senate Bill S. 1898.
- 7 G. The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Title X Part III (Public Law 111-  
8 11) signed on March 30, 2009, provided the authorization to construct the Navajo-  
9 Gallup Water Supply Project as the cornerstone of the Navajo Nation San Juan River  
10 Basin Water Rights Settlement between the Navajo Nation, State of New Mexico, and  
11 United States.
- 12 H. Once constructed, the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project will convey a reliable  
13 municipal and industrial water supply from the San Juan River to the eastern section of  
14 the Navajo Nation, southwestern portion of the Jicarilla Apache Nation, and the City  
15 of Gallup, New Mexico via about 300 miles of pipeline, nineteen pumping plants, and  
16 two water treatment plants.
- 17 I. These areas currently rely on a rapidly depleting groundwater supply that is of poor  
18 quality and inadequate to meet the current and future demands of more than 43 Navajo  
19 Chapters, the City of Gallup, and the Teepee Junction area of the Jicarilla Apache  
20 Nation.
- 21 J. The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project is designed to provide a long-term  
22 sustainable water supply to meet the future population needs of people in these  
23 communities through the annual delivery of 37,764 acre-feet of water from the San  
24 Juan Basin.
- 25 K. The authorizing legislation requires that all project features be completed no later than  
26 December 31, 2024, unless the Nation, the State of New Mexico, and the Department  
27 of Interior agree to extend the completion date, and sets an indexed authorized  
28 appropriation ceiling of \$1,413,700,000 (October 2022 price level) to complete the  
29 Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.
- 30

- 1 L. Current construction efforts have faced numerous delays and cost overruns and  
2 continue to be impacted by higher than usual inflation.
- 3 M. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's October 2022 Working Cost Estimate to complete  
4 the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project is \$2,138,387,000, meaning the project needs  
5 an additional 660 million dollars in funding. The estimated completion date is now  
6 2029.
- 7 N. Failure to increase funding and extend the authorized timeframe for construction  
8 threaten the viability of the project.
- 9 O. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to support amendments to Public Law  
10 111-11 in order to increase appropriations for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project,  
11 extend the timeframe in which the project may be constructed, and make any other  
12 improving changes to the original legislation.

13  
14 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 15 A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports Senate Bill 1898 "Navajo-Gallup Water Supply  
16 Project Amendments Act of 2023," attached as **Exhibit A**, as introduced by Senator  
17 Luján into the United States Senate on June 8, 2023.
- 18 B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council,  
19 President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate the Navajo Nation's  
20 support of Senate Bill 1898.
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