

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
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LEGISLATION NO: \_0080-24\_

SPONSOR: Crystalyne Curley

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Approving the Navajo Nation's Support of President Joseph R. Biden's Establishment of the Commission for the "Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon" National Monument and Confirming the Appointment of Richard M. Begay as the Navajo Nation's Representative on the Commission**

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## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Tracking No. 0080-24

DATE: April 5, 2024

**RE: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;  
APPROVING THE NAVAJO NATION'S SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT  
JOSEPH R. BIDEN'S ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE  
"BAAJ NWAAVJO I'TAH KUKVENI-ANCESTRAL FOOTPRINTS OF THE  
GRAND CANYON" NATIONAL MONUMENT AND CONFIRMING THE  
APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD M. BEGAY AS THE NAVAJO NATION'S  
REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMISSION**

### **PURPOSE OF THIS LEGISLATION:**

to approve the Navajo Nation's support of the establishment of the federal Commission for the "Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument" and to confirm the appointment of Richard M. Begay as the Navajo Nation's representative on the Commission.

### **FINAL AUTHORITY and VOTE REQUIREMENT:**

The Naabik'iyáti' Committee has final authority. A simple majority vote of the Committee is required to approve the resolution.



1 D. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is authorized to give final confirmation of commission  
2 appointments. 2 N.N.C. §701(A)(1).

3  
4 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

5 A. The interconnected landscapes of the Grand Canyon region, including the Colorado River,  
6 Glen Canyon, Marble Canyon, the Grand Canyon, and various sites throughout the  
7 boundaries of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon  
8 National Monument, form an essential part of the Navajo People's oral histories and  
9 ceremonies.

10 B. The Commission established by Proclamation No. 10606 is tasked with developing and  
11 implementing a management plan for the Monument, thereby equipping the affected tribes  
12 with a greater voice in protecting this sacred landscape from potential harms, including the  
13 expansion of uranium mining, a practice known to have devastated the Navajo People for  
14 decades.

15 C. The Commission also allows tribal input in the creation of interpretative materials,  
16 recruitment initiatives, ethnographic studies, and the establishment of a museum/visitor  
17 center at the Monument.

18 D. Currently, the Navajo Nation actively participates in the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management  
19 Program and already collaborates with federal agencies to protect cultural and natural  
20 resources in the area.

21 E. Richard M. Begay has demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise in the fields of  
22 anthropology, historic preservation, and cultural resources management, as evidenced by his  
23 extensive educational background and professional experience.

24 F. Mr. Begay has a distinguished career, including his current role as the Department Manager  
25 of the Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department, where he effectively  
26 manages operations, develops budgets, and oversees programs related to the protection and  
27 preservation of the Navajo Nation's cultural resources.

28 G. Richard M. Begay's background includes significant contributions to various organizations,  
29 such as his role as the Director of Historic Preservation for the Agua Caliente Band of  
30 Cahuilla Indians in Palm Springs, California, and his involvement in the USDA Natural

1 Resources Conservation Service, where he served as a Natural Resource Specialist/Tribal  
2 Liaison.

3 H. Mr. Begay's academic achievements, including an Ed. M. from Harvard University with a  
4 concentration in Human Development & Psychology and a focus on the Acquisition of  
5 Language and Culture, demonstrate his commitment to advancing knowledge and  
6 understanding in relevant fields.

7 I. Richard M. Begay has authored and co-authored publications, including "Grand Canyon in  
8 the Navajo Lifeway" and "An Exploration of Navajo-Anasazi Relationships," which  
9 showcase his expertise and dedication to sharing the cultural heritage and history of the  
10 Navajo People.

11 J. Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren has appointed Richard M. Begay as the Navajo  
12 Nation's representative on the Commission for the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral  
13 Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument. **EXHIBIT B.**

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15 **SECTION THREE. APPROVING THE NAVAJO NATION'S SUPPORT OF THE**  
16 **COMMISSION FOR THE "BAAJ NWAAVJO I'TAH KUKVENI-**  
17 **ANCESTRAL FOOTPRINTS OF THE GRAND CANYON"**  
18 **NATIONAL MONUMENT**

19 The Navajo Nation hereby supports President Joseph R. Biden's Proclamation No. 10606 and  
20 the establishment of the tribal member Commission for the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni -  
21 Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

22  
23 **SECTION FOUR. CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD M. BEGAY**  
24 **AS THE NAVAJO NATION'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE**  
25 **COMMISSION**

26 A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby confirms the Navajo Nation President's appointment  
27 of Richard M. Begay as the Navajo Nation's representative on the federal Commission for  
28 the "Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National  
29 Monument." As the Navajo Nation's representative, Mr. Begay will carry out all  
30 responsibilities as a Commission member, and by the end of every Quarter Mr. Begay will

1 provide a written report to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee regarding the Commission's  
2 activities and accomplishments.

3 B. In accordance with the requirements of Proclamation No. 10606, the Navajo Nation hereby  
4 expresses its intent to join the Commission by entering into a cooperative agreement or  
5 similar arrangement with the U.S. Secretary of Interior and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture,  
6 through the U.S. Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service, whereby the  
7 Navajo Nation and the federal agencies shall agree to co-stewardship of the Baaj Nwaavjo  
8 I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument through  
9 shared responsibilities or administration.

10  
11 **SECTION FIVE. DIRECTIVE**

12 This Resolution shall be transmitted to all appropriate parties, including the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah  
13 Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon Commission, the Navajo Nation President,  
14 and any relevant federal agencies or entities, to formalize the Navajo Nation's intent to join the  
15 Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon Commission and its  
16 appointment of Richard M. Begay as the Navajo Nation's representative on the Commission.

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18 **SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

19 This Action shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §221(C) and 2 N.N.C. §701(A)(1).

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21 **SECTION SEVEN. SAVING CLAUSE**

22 If any part of this Action is invalidated by the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation, or by any  
23 Navajo Nation District Court without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the  
24 remainder of this Action shall be the law of the Navajo Nation.