



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council and President Nygren call on President Biden to halt uranium hauling on Navajo lands



CAP-23-24 reaffirms the Navajo Nation's stance against uranium hauling on Navajo lands.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker Crystalne Curley and Resources and Development Vice Chair Casey Allen Johnson joined Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren in signing CAP-23-24, calling on President Joseph R. Biden to assist in halting uranium transport across Navajo Nation lands.

“On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we thank President Nygren for writing this position into law. This reaffirms our stance at the federal level against the hauling of uranium on Navajo Nation lands,” Speaker Curley said.

Legislation 0082-24, signed into law as CAP-23-24, stemmed from the uranium mining activity at the Pinyon Plain Mine, near the Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona. This activity raised concerns over the potential environmental and health hazards posed by transporting uranium ore and waste materials across Navajo lands via Arizona State Route 89 and Highway 160 to the White Mesa Mill in Utah.

Speaker Curley emphasized the need to protect Navajo highways from the transportation of hazardous materials that can harm businesses, students, residents, and livestock. The Nation

recently experienced an explosive train derailment that impacted over 50 residents of the Lupton Chapter.

“We don’t want diesels carrying uranium to have accidents on routes that intersect Navajo right of way, including school bus routes and tourist thoroughfares,” said Speaker Curley.

The resolution calls upon President Biden and federal authorities to take immediate action to halt the transportation of uranium through Navajo lands.

President Nygren said the Council’s unanimous support of CAP-23-24 exemplifies the unified effort of the Executive Office and the Legislative Branch in taking a stance against uranium transport.

“We need to send a strong message to Washington D.C. The message is that we’re not messing around when it comes to uranium being transported across the Navajo Nation. This legislation will make an impact across Indian Country,” President Nygren said.

Vice Chair Johnson, who sponsored Legislation 0082-24 which was approved by the 25th Navajo Nation Council during the 2024 Spring Session, said the resolution is an exertion of Navajo Nation sovereignty to protect all life and natural resources.

“We are taking care of our people and our communities. When we stand together on this resolution, we’re telling the world that we’re exerting our sovereignty over our roads, land, air, and water. Other tribal nations look to us to see how we protect our homelands,” Vice Chair Johnson said.

Speaker Curley thanked the Navajo Nation Washington Office for their help in drafting the legislation.

According to Speaker Curley, there is still much work to be done, “This is a step toward bigger battles we’ll have at the federal level.”

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