

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0016-25

SPONSOR: Casey Allen Johnson

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development Committee, Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Annexing the Lower Highway 89 Land (13.79 Acres) into the Cameron Chapter, Navajo Nation**

***Date posted:*** February 18, 2025 at 5:05PM.

Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586

**Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.**

**Please note:** This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0016-25

**DATE:** February 14, 2025

**TITLE OF THE RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ANNEXING THE LOWER HIGHWAY 89 LAND (13.79 ACRES) INTO THE CAMERON CHAPTER, NAVAJO NATION**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the resolution is to approve annexing 13.79 acres of Navajo Nation land, known as Lower Highway 89 Land, into Cameron Chapter, Navajo Nation. Cameron Chapter will possess chapter governmental authority over the annexed land.

**Final Authority:** Navajo Nation Council




**Vote Required:** Simple Majority

**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 Mike III  
Website Posting Time/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 02-23-25  
Eligible for Action: 02-24-25

Resources & Development Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyati' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
2 25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2025  
3 INTRODUCED BY

4   
5 (Prime Sponsor)   
6   
7  
8 TRACKING NO. 0016-25

9  
10 AN ACTION  
11 RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,  
12 NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
13 ANNEXING THE LOWER HIGHWAY 89 LAND (13.79 ACRES) INTO THE  
14 CAMERON CHAPTER, NAVAJO NATION

15  
16 BE IT ENACTED:

17 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 18 A. The Resources and Development Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo  
19 Nation Council with oversight over land, Chapter activities, economic and community  
20 development, commerce and trade, and gaming. 2 N.N.C. § 500(A) and (C).  
21 B. The Naabik'iyati' Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council  
22 with the responsibility to review legislation requiring final action by the Navajo Nation  
23 Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A)(9) and 701(A)(3).  
24 C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation, and all powers  
25 not delegated are reserved to the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A) and 102(B).

26  
27 SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- 28 A. The Navajo Nation has existed as the Navajo tribe since time immemorial and has the  
29 general inherent authority to annex lands.  
30

- 1 B. The Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise (“NNGE”) is a wholly owned enterprise of the  
2 Navajo Nation established pursuant to 5 N.N.C. § 1701 *et seq.*, and NNGE is authorized  
3 to carry out commercial activities.
- 4 C. Pursuant to NNGE Resolutions NNGEJUN-002-19 and NNGE SEP-001-19, attached as  
5 **Exhibits A and B** respectively, the Board of Directors of NNGE authorized NNGE to  
6 acquire three assembled parcels consisting of the Beller Parcel, Horsemen Lodge Parcel,  
7 and Flying Heart Stables Parcel (collectively “Lower Highway 89 Land”).
- 8 D. Pursuant to Navajo-Hopi Land Commission (“NHLC”) Resolution NHLCSMA-3-2020,  
9 attached as **Exhibit C**, the NHLC, on behalf of the Navajo Nation, supported NNGE’s  
10 purchase and development of the Lower Highway 89 Land and directed NNGE and the  
11 Navajo Nation (Department of Justice, Division of Natural Resources, and the Navajo-  
12 Hopi Land Commission Office) to work with the U.S. Office of the Navajo Hopi Indian  
13 Relocation (“OHNIR”) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
14 (“BIA”), to do all things necessary to expedite the mandatory fee land into Navajo Nation  
15 trust land process.
- 16 E. Pursuant to NHLC Resolution NHLCSMY-5-2020, attached as **Exhibit D**, the NHLC  
17 selected three assembled parcels with a total area of approximately 13.8 acres of (“Lower  
18 Highway 89 Land”) to convert into trust status pursuant to the Navajo-Hopi Land  
19 Settlement Act, as amended (“Act”).
- 20 F. Pursuant to Resolution CD-75-22, attached as **Exhibit E**, the Navajo Nation Council  
21 authorized the Navajo Nation to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with ONHIR  
22 for ONHIR to select the Lower Highway 89 Land under the Act for the acquisition and  
23 placement of such land into trust status for the benefit of the Navajo families residing on  
24 the Hopi-Partitioned Lands as of December 22, 1974. Further, Resolution CD-75-22 also  
25 authorized the Navajo Nation President to accept the conveyance of the Lower Highway  
26 89 Land as a gift from NNGE.
- 27 G. On October 26, 2023, ONHIR officially selected the Lower Highway 89 Land for  
28 acquisition and placement into trust status for the benefit of the Navajo families residing  
29 on the Hopi-Partitioned Lands as of December 22, 1974, pursuant to the Act. **See Exhibit**  
30 **F.**

- 1 H. By letter dated November 3, 2023, the Navajo Nation submitted a Fee to Trust  
2 Application to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs requesting that the Department of  
3 the Interior approve the acquisition of the Lower Highway 89 Land and the transfer of  
4 the Land into trust status pursuant to the Act. See **Exhibit G**.
- 5 I. Pursuant to Resolution NNGEJUN-002-24, attached as **Exhibit H**, the Board of  
6 Directors of NNGE approved the gift General Warranty Deed for the conveyance of the  
7 Lower Highway 89 Land from NNGE to the Navajo Nation.
- 8 J. The General Warranty Deed conveying the Lower Highway 89 Land from NNGE to the  
9 Navajo Nation was executed by NNGE, as Grantor, on June 11, 2024, and the Navajo  
10 Nation, as Grantee, on June 24, 2024, and the Deed was subsequently recorded with the  
11 Coconino County Recorder’s Office. See **Exhibit I**.
- 12 K. On November 8, 2024, the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs made a final agency  
13 determination to acquire in trust the Lower Highway 89 Land for the Navajo Nation and  
14 this determination was published in the Federal Register on November 14, 2024. See  
15 **Exhibit J**.
- 16 L. On November 21, 2024, the Navajo Nation President, as Grantor, executed a General  
17 Warranty Deed for the conveyance of the Lower Highway 89 Land to the United States  
18 of America in trust for the benefit of the Navajo families residing on the Hopi-Partitioned  
19 Lands as of December 22, 1974, and on November 26, 2024, the Acting BIA Regional  
20 Director executed the Acceptance of Conveyance of the Lower Highway 89 Land. The  
21 General Warranty Deed was recorded with the BIA Land Titles and Records Office on  
22 November 27, 2024, and the Coconino County Recorder’s Office on December 12, 2024,  
23 and pursuant to the conveyance and recording of the General Warranty Deed, the Lower  
24 Highway 89 Land is officially part of the Navajo Indian Reservation. See **Exhibits K**  
25 **and L**.
- 26 M. Pursuant to Resolution CA-008-357#2, attached as **Exhibit M**, the Cameron Chapter  
27 recommends the annexation of the Lower Highway 89 Land into the Cameron Chapter.
- 28 N. Pursuant to Resolution CA-019-346#1, attached as **Exhibit N**, the Cameron Chapter also  
29 approved gambling activities and the sale of alcohol to occur at the Lower Highway 89  
30 Land.

1 O. The annexation of the Lower Highway 89 Land into the Cameron Chapter is in the best  
2 interest of the Navajo Nation.  
3

4 **SECTION THREE. ANNEXING THE LOWER HIGHWAY 89 LAND INTO THE**  
5 **CAMERON CHAPTER, NAVAJO NATION (COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA)**

- 6 1. The Navajo Nation hereby annexes the 13.79 acres of Navajo Nation land known as the  
7 Lower Highway 89 Land, shown in the attached ALTA Surveys and Legal Descriptions  
8 set forth in **Exhibit O**, into the Cameron Chapter, Navajo Nation (Coconino County,  
9 Arizona) effective immediately.
- 10 2. The Navajo Nation affirms that subject to 25 U.S.C. §640d-10(h), the Cameron Chapter  
11 shall possess chapter governmental authority over the annexed Lower Highway 89 Land  
12 consistent with Navajo Nation and Federal law, including the MOA between the Navajo  
13 Nation and ONHIR for the Lower Highway 89 Land development including the MOA  
14 between the Navajo Nation and ONHIR for the Lower Highway 89 Land development.
- 15 3. The Navajo Nation hereby directs the Attorney General and appropriate Navajo Nation  
16 Divisions and Programs to do all things necessary and proper to record and map the  
17 addition of the Lower Highway 89 Land to the Navajo Nation trust land base within the  
18 Cameron Chapter boundaries.  
19

20 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

21 The provisions of this action shall become effective as provided in 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).  
22

23 **SECTION FIVE. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

24 Should any provision of this resolution be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme  
25 Court, or the District Court of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme  
26 Court, those provisions that are not determined invalid shall remain the law of the Navajo  
27 Nation.  
28  
29  
30