



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Law and Order Committee approves legislation confirming Attorney General appointment



Members of the Law and Order Committee voiced their concerns with over Kris O. Beecher's qualifications.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee (LOC) approved Legislation 0005-25, which confirms the appointment of Kris O. Beecher, Esq., as the Navajo Nation Attorney General.

“We want these appointments to move forward,” said Law and Order Committee Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton. “We see appointments that are made with no movement.”

During the special meeting, Chair Charles-Newton clarified that, as the LOC has oversight over the Department of Justice, the legislation bypasses other committees and proceeds directly to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. The final authority rests with the Navajo Nation Council.

The legislation, sponsored by Council Delegate Otto Tso, is in accordance with Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, Subsection (§) 1962, which outlines the process for appointing the attorney general. Beecher's appointment was recommended by Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren.

Committee members expressed concerns over public comments related to Beecher's qualifications as an attorney. Council Delegate Arbin Mitchell asked Beecher to elaborate on his experience working with the Navajo Nation as an attorney.



Beecher is a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association and is licensed to practice in both Arizona and New Mexico.

Beecher detailed his experience as a member of the Navajo Nation Bar Association for eight years and his tenure as a commissioner and chair of the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) Board for three years. He is licensed to practice in both Arizona and New Mexico.

Council Delegate Steven R. Arviso voiced skepticism, suggesting that presidential appointees tend to prioritize the Executive Office's interests over those of the Navajo Nation Council, which can hinder cooperation.

"I have no faith in our legal services. I have an issue with appointments," Arviso said. "How can you, as the Navajo Nation Attorney General, help the Council and our people?"

Beecher responded by emphasizing that his role as Attorney General is to serve the Navajo people and help move the Nation forward.

"I believe my role is to work collaboratively with all three branches of government and to advocate for the Navajo people and their sovereignty with a unified voice," he said.

Chair Charles-Newton further questioned Beecher about his experience working with the NHA Board, particularly regarding issues related to stipend payments to board members in 2019, when Beecher served as Board Chair.

She referenced reports that the NHA Board had been paid stipends before meetings took place. "Did you pay yourself before the work was done?" she asked.

Beecher confirmed that this was the case, explaining that the Board had been meeting 20 to 25 times a month, and the forward stipend payments were in accordance with advice from the Board's attorney. He added that the practice had since been adjusted, with board members now being paid only after meetings were completed.

Chair Charles-Newton requested that Beecher's response be formally recorded.

The Law and Order Committee voted in favor of moving Legislation 0005-25 forward to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, with a vote of two in favor and one opposed.

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