

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0160-25\_

SPONSOR: Crystalynne Curley

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Navajo Nation  
Comments to the United States Department of the Interior's "Dear Tribal Leader"  
Letter Dated April 14, 2025 Concerning the Proposed Restructuring of Indian  
Affairs Programs in Alignment with Executive Order 14210**

***Date posted:*** June 27, 2025 at 8:29PM

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## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0160-25

**DATE:** June 27, 2025

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; NAVAJO NATION COMMENTS ON THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S "DEAR TRIBAL LEADER" LETTER DATED APRIL 14, 2025 CONCERNING THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF INDIAN AFFAIRS PROGRAMS IN ALIGNMENT WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 14210

**PURPOSE:** This purpose of this proposed resolution is to provide a written response from the Navajo Nation to the United States Department of the Interior ("DOI")'s April 14, 2025 "Dear Tribal Leader" letter concerning restricting of the Indian Affairs programs in alignment with Executive Order 14210, which focuses on federal workforce efficiency and productivity.

**FINAL AUTHORITY:** Naabik'íyáti' Committee

**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: Johnson  
Website Posting Time/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 07-02-25  
Eligible for Action: 07-03-25

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2025

Introduced By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0160-25



AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; NAVAJO NATION  
COMMENTS ON THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S  
“DEAR TRIBAL LEADER” LETTER DATED APRIL 14, 2025 CONCERNING  
THE PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF INDIAN AFFAIRS PROGRAMS IN  
ALIGNMENT WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 14210

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such 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) and 701(A)(6).
- B. On February 11, 2025, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 14210 (“EO”) establishing the “Department of Government Efficiency” Workforce Optimization Initiative (the “Initiative”), which aims to reform the Federal workforce to maximize efficiency and productivity.
- C. On April 14, 2025, the Department of the Interior (“DOI”) issued a “Dear Tribal Leader” letter to inform Tribes that the federal government’s objective to streamline operations while minimizing any potential impact on the quality of services provided to Tribes will affect Indian Affairs (the “April 14<sup>th</sup> letter”), attached as **Exhibit A**.

- 1 D. In support of the Initiative, the DOI is committed to receiving formal consultation  
2 feedback from Tribes regarding the EO, as well as the restructuring of Indian Affairs for  
3 more efficient interactions with Tribes, identifying efficiency barriers to expedite Tribal  
4 funding, and increased Indian Affairs support for Tribal self-governance and self-  
5 determination. As a result, the DOI informed Tribes that it will "seek to engage directly  
6 with federally recognized Tribes to receive formal input on critical needs."
- 7 E. The April 14<sup>th</sup> letter has caused concern for Navajo Nation Leaders regarding the  
8 restructuring of Indian Affairs programs to support more efficient interactions with  
9 Tribes. The Navajo Nation leadership is concerned that this restructuring will directly  
10 impact the federal government's ability to uphold its trust and treaty obligations and  
11 Indian Affairs' ability to provide assistance to the Navajo Nation and our people. Further,  
12 the Nation strongly opposes the consolidation of the Navajo area Bureau of Indian Affairs  
13 region and programs.
- 14 F. The Navajo Nation has passed two Resolutions to urge the United States to honor and  
15 uphold its treaty and trust obligations to the Navajo Nation by maintaining government-  
16 to-government relations with the Navajo Nation, pursuant to NABIAP-14-25 and  
17 NABIMA-13-25.
- 18 G. The resources and services that benefit the Navajo Nation are used in the States of  
19 Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The number of resources and services that are received  
20 from the DOI is profound. The April 14<sup>th</sup> letter indicates that the DOI will develop plans  
21 to "implement operational improvements" while remaining "committed to fulfilling  
22 [its]responsibilities efficiently and effectively". This commitment only makes it  
23 exceedingly necessary for the federal government to conduct direct government-to-  
24 government consultation with the largest sovereign tribe in the United States.
- 25 H. On June 26, 2025, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved Legislation No. 0153-25 titled  
26 "An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Responding to the United States  
27 Department of the Interior "Dear Tribal Leader" Letter Dated April 14, 2025;  
28 Reaffirming the Political Classification of the Navajo Nation and Its Citizens; Presenting  
29 the Position of the Navajo Nation Concerning Executive Order 14210; Urging the  
30 Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Indian Education to Engage

1 Directly with the Navajo Nation to Conduct Government-to-Government Consultation  
2 Regarding Tribally Controlled and Bureau of Indian Education Schools” (Resolution  
3 number is pending). This legislation approved a position letter that is a joint effort  
4 between the Department of Diné Education and the Diné Bi Olta School Board  
5 Association, Inc. to the Department of the Interior, Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of  
6 Indian Education in response to the April 14<sup>th</sup> letter.

- 7 I. The Navajo Nation has developed additional comments in response to the April 14<sup>th</sup>  
8 letter, which are attached as **Exhibit B**.

9  
10 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 11 A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports and approves the comments contained in **Exhibit B**  
12 and authorizes the submission of the comments to the United States Department of the  
13 Interior.
- 14 B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, Navajo Nation Vice-  
15 President and the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and their designees to take all  
16 steps necessary to advocate for the Navajo Nation's position with respect to this  
17 resolution.