



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Legislation introduced to hold investigatory hearings to obtain information and facts related to ZenniHome funding



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Saturday, Legislation No. 0174-25 was officially introduced, calling for formal investigatory hearings into the handling of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that were issued by the Navajo Nation Executive Branch to a Navajo-owned company which subcontracted with ZenniHome, a home manufacturing company to build homes.

The legislation comes amid growing concerns over transparency, accountability, and the use of public funds designated by the Council to provide homes for Navajo families, elders, and veterans.

The legislation was introduced in accordance with Navajo Nation law, to allow the Budget and Finance Committee to issue subpoenas and convene formal hearings to gather facts and information.

Council members cited the need to ensure that the Nation's resources and investments yield tangible benefits for the Navajo people, as intended through the allocation of the funds. The hearings will provide a review of financial transactions, contracts, and testimony related to ZenniHome.

In March 2024, the Office of the President and Vice President announced a \$24 million “grant” to ZenniHome using ARPA funds, to build homes. The President’s Office later referenced a contract with a company named Indigenous Design Studio + Architecture, LLC, which reportedly subcontracted with ZenniHome.

The legislation states that Standing Committees, including the Budget and Finance Committee, have received information, both oral and written, from Navajo Nation officials, employees, and community members suggesting that the Navajo Nation’s contracts, including procurement, payments, etc., with ZenniHome and Indigenous Design Studio + Architect do not comply with Navajo Nation laws, regulations, rules, and policies.

It further states that the Budget and Finance Committee finds that the information received about ZenniHome and Indigenous Design Studio + Architect to be credible and deserving of further investigation.

“This is about fiduciary responsibility and taking steps to restore public trust. The Navajo people deserve to know how their money is being used,” said Budget and Finance Committee Chair Shaandiin Parrish, sponsor of the legislation.

Under Title II of Navajo Nation law, the Budget and Finance Committee is responsible to exercise oversight authority over the budget, finance, investment, contracting, accounting, and audit activities of the Navajo Nation.

Standing Committees are also empowered to subpoena and acquire from any executive department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, independent establishment or instrumentality, information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics necessary for execution of the purposes and authorities of the Committee.

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