



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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25th Navajo Nation Council votes no confidence in Division of Natural Resources Director



Legislation No. 0054-25 expresses no confidence in the appointed Executive Director Mike Halona.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0054-25, expressing no confidence in W. Mike Halona as the appointed Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources (DNR) and recommending his removal.

The resolution, sponsored by Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw, rescinds CAP-34-23, the original legislation confirming Halona's appointment, and directs the recommendation to the Office of the President and Vice President for final action.

The approved resolution cites numerous unresolved issues and systemic concerns during Halona's tenure, including poor fiscal oversight, lack of transparency, and inaction on major land, agriculture, and infrastructure initiatives.

Delegate Claw stated, "As an elected Council Delegate, we have a responsibility to uphold transparency, accountability, and sound fiscal management on behalf of our communities. I respectfully support the removal of the division director and call on my colleagues to vote green because our communities are demanding a higher standard of leadership."

Concerns raised in the legislation include the alleged misuse of nearly \$300,000 in vacant position funds, the failure to budget for basic operations, unexplained inter-program fund transfers, and a consistent lack of deliverables and accountability. Other issues noted were

unaddressed deficiencies in tribal ranches, unresolved telecommunications contracts, delays in service delivery, and failure to implement major reforms like fair policy and site amendments.

“This vote sends a message to the Navajo People that their dissatisfaction is heard and represented. The director has had over two years to address the same critical problems,” said Delegate Claw. “Our people deserve a leader who does not divert funds from core services without accountability.”

Legislation co-sponsor Delegate Cherilyn Yazzie also underscored the resolution’s intent stating, “This action holds the director accountable and urges the Navajo Nation President to listen to the people. Our goal is improved services, transparency, and leadership defined by action.”

Legislation No. 0054-25 was approved with a vote of 11 in favor and ten opposed.

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