



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### **Naabik'iyáti' Committee approves major amendments to the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office plan of operation**



**Naabik'iyáti' Committee approved legislation 0187-25, amendments to the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office Plan of Operation.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Thursday, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee approved amendments to the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office (NHLCO) Plan of Operation to align the office's mission with present-day legal, administrative, and community needs.

The amended plan enhances the operational capacity of the NHLCO, a body established under the Office of the President and Vice President, by clearly defining its purpose, expanding its administrative authority, and integrating updated federal and tribal policies related to land use, relocation, and rehabilitation efforts.

The updates reflect over a decade of evolving legal frameworks and intergovernmental negotiations, including settlements stemming from the 1882 and 1934 land disputes. The revisions also provide a stronger foundation for the NHLCO to manage critical programs, such as the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Fund, the Diné Relocatee Fund, and the Former Bennett Freeze Area escrow funds.

"The amendments to the Plan of Operation are about restoring capacity, rebuilding trust, and advancing the vision of self-determined recovery for our families impacted by the Navajo-Hopi land disputes," said Council Delegate Otto Tso, the sponsor of the legislation.

"This action empowers the Commission to better serve our communities, from supporting economic development and housing efforts to coordinating vital rehabilitation programs and ensuring that those living on partitioned lands have representation and resources."

The amended plan also clarifies the organizational structure of the NHLCO, outlines the appointment and responsibilities of the Executive Director, and introduces measurable objectives for project development, community engagement, and interagency coordination.

Under the revised framework, the NHLCO will actively participate in land negotiations, oversee critical funding mechanisms, and provide technical and policy support to ensure compliance with tribal and federal laws. Additionally, it affirms the Commission's role in advocating for Diné citizens who have signed accommodation agreements on Hopi Partitioned Land and those affected by relocation policies.

These updates were initially proposed by the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission and formalized through Commission Resolution. After undergoing a public review period with no opposition received, the proposal was advanced to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee for final approval.

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved the legislation on a consent agenda with a vote of 15 in favor and two opposed.

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