



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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Naabik'iyáti' Committee questions Acting Attorney General's potential conflict of interest related to the ZenniHome investigation and the President's illegal attempt to terminate Controller McCabe



Naabik'iyáti Committee voted against confirmation of Colin Bradley as Navajo Nation Attorney General.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Thursday, the Naabik'iyáti Committee voted 0–12 on legislation seeking to confirm Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren's appointment of Colin Bradley to serve as the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation, after Bradley failed to publicly answer direct questions related to the President's illegal attempt to terminate Sean McCabe as the Controller. The legislation to confirm Bradley now moves forward to the full Navajo Nation Council for consideration.

The Council firmly maintains that Sean McCabe remains the lawful Controller, confirmed by the Council in accordance with Navajo Nation law, and that the President did not have the authority to terminate a Controller that works at the pleasure of the Council.

Throughout the discussion, Council Delegates voiced disappointment and concern over Bradley's lack of clear and direct responses to key questions, particularly regarding the status of the Controller position and the legality of President Nygren's attempt to terminate Controller McCabe.

Several delegates emphasized that the Attorney General serves the Navajo Nation and must provide legal guidance to both the Executive and Legislative Branches. They noted that the Acting Attorney General's reluctance to address ongoing legal issues in a public meeting has created uncertainty.

Acting Attorney General Bradley confirmed to the Council in writing that the Department of Justice provided legal advice to President Nygren in his decision to issue a termination notice to McCabe.

President Nygren appointed an “interim” Controller without the consent of the Budget and Finance Committee — a violation of 12 N.N.C. § 202(B), which specifically states that the “President of the Navajo Nation, with the consent of the Budget and Finance Committee, may appoint an Acting Controller to serve during vacancies of the Controller pending formal action by the Navajo Nation Council.”

“If the law says only the Council can [confirm] or remove the Controller, then let’s follow the law. If there’s no such thing as an ‘interim controller’ in our Code, then let’s stop pretending there is. The people deserve clarity, accountability, and integrity—not backdoor deals and blurred lines,” said Council Delegate Carl Slater.

When asked directly who the lawful Controller is, Acting Attorney General Bradley would not provide a definitive answer during the public meeting. As a result, the Committee approved a directive to the Acting Attorney General to issue a legal opinion regarding who is the lawful Controller by noon on Friday, Oct. 10.

“As Speaker, I have a responsibility to ensure that the Department of Justice serves all three branches of our government, not just one. When critical questions go unanswered in public, but swift responses are delivered behind closed doors to the President, that raises serious concerns about transparency and bias,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. “If confirmation does not [pass] then we must ask ‘will you step aside in respect of this body, or will you remain without the support of the Nation’s governing voices?’”

Speaker Curley stated that the Council is seeking accountability and clarity from the Acting Attorney General. The Committee’s vote reflects growing concern within the Council about the Nygren administration’s handling of personnel and financial matters, including the Office of the Controller and the management of federal funds.

The Committee also approved a directive to Acting Attorney General Bradley to submit a legal memorandum addressing potential conflicts of interest involving Zwillinger Wulkan, the law firm where Bradley previously served as a partner. The law firm currently represents the Office of the President and Vice President in the ZenniHome investigation.

Council members also questioned Bradley regarding the Zwillinger Wulkan law firm’s “motion to intervene” filed in Navajo Nation court, on behalf of the Office of the President and Vice President, and the firm’s efforts through the Acting Attorney to obtain sealed documents related to the court’s appointment of the Special Prosecutor assigned to investigate the ZenniHome matter.

In accordance with the directive, the memorandum must be submitted to the Council before the Fall Council Session scheduled to begin on Oct. 20, along with a copy of a conflict-of-interest analysis that Bradley referenced during the meeting.

“When questions arise about the lawfulness of executive actions, the Attorney General must provide direct answers, not avoid them,” stated Speaker Curley following the meeting.

The legislation now moves forward to the Navajo Nation Council for consideration. The public may submit written comments for Legislation No. 0215-25 by email to comments@navajonnsn.gov or by mail to the Office of Legislative Services, PO Box 3390, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

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