



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **President Nygren files in court to stop removal legislation**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Monday, attorneys for Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren filed with Window Rock District Court requesting to block Legislation No. 0263-25, which seeks the removal of President Nygren and Vice President Richelle Montoya from office for extensive findings of malfeasance, misfeasance, and breaches of fiduciary trust duties under Navajo Nation law.

In the court filing, President Nygren makes multiple arguments against his removal that are similar to arguments previously made by attorneys for former President Joe Shirley, Jr. when he was placed on emergency administrative leave.

“The Council is the voice for the Navajo people. An independent investigation conducted by the special prosecutor has led to multiple findings of violations of our laws that have now been filed in court. President Nygren is not above the law and needs to be held accountable. The Nygren/Montoya Administration has lost the trust of the Navajo people. Their administration has been nothing short of an embarrassment for our Navajo people and our government,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley.

The Office of Legislative Counsel strongly rejects the characterization of Legislation No. 0263-25 as an “illegal power grab” by Nygren’s attorneys. This claim is false, misleading, and ignores the clear authority granted to the Council under Navajo Nation law.

The legislation allows the President and Vice President the opportunity to address the removal legislation when it goes before the Naabik’íyáti Committee and again before the Navajo Nation Council session, and follow the removal process established under 11 N.N.C. § 240(A), which governs removal proceedings.

The filing repeatedly invokes Shirley v. Morgan, but fails to mention that the decision did not invalidate 11 N.N.C. § 240(A), the provision that outlines presidential removal. The Navajo Nation Supreme Court has never struck down the Nation’s removal statute, and it remains the governing law. The Council is exercising its authority provided by law.

The Navajo Nation government has three branches. No one branch, not even the Executive Branch, can place itself above the laws and processes enacted by the Navajo people and their representatives.

“The Navajo Nation Council remains committed to upholding transparency, protecting checks and balances, ensuring due process for all officials, defending the Nation’s laws, institutions, and dignity, and representing the call of the Navajo people asking Council to remove the President and Vice President,” said Speaker Curley.

The Council will continue to move forward in a manner that respects Diné Bii Beehazanii, the Navajo Nation Code, and the voice of the Navajo people.

The public may submit written comments for Legislation No. 0263-25 by email to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov) or by mail to Executive Director, Office of Legislative Services, PO Box 3390, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

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