



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Resources and Development Committee approves amendments to Division of Economic Development Business Site Lease Plans



The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0023-26, amending the Division of Economic Development Business Site Lease Administrative and Management Plan.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Monday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council's Resources and Development Committee (RDC) has approved Legislation No. 0023-26, amending the Division of Economic Development (DED) Business Site Lease Administrative Plan and Management Plan to streamline leasing processes and strengthen economic development oversight.

The legislation approves updates to the Business Site Lease Administrative Plan and Management Plan, which together provide policy direction and procedural guidance for managing business site leases on Navajo Nation trust land. The amendments were requested by the Division of Economic Development and include revisions attached as Exhibit A, with redline copies provided for review.

Legislation sponsor RDC Chair Delegate Brenda Jesus emphasized that the amendments are designed to remove unnecessary delays while maintaining accountability.

"These amendments represent a unified effort to streamline our business site leasing process while protecting the Navajo Nation's interests. By reducing redundant reviews and clarifying internal procedures, we are strengthening economic opportunity for our entrepreneurs and ensuring that the Division of Economic Development can respond more efficiently to business needs across our communities," said Chair Jesus.

Under Section Three of the legislation, the Resources and Development Committee formally approved the amended Business Site Lease Administrative Plan and Management Plan.

According to DED leadership, the amendments reflect years of coordination between the Division of Economic Development and the Navajo Nation Department of Justice to improve efficiency and clarify internal review procedures. Key changes include adjustments to the review process for permits and emergency operating agreements, consolidation of required clearances, and structural updates to strengthen local-level responsiveness in business site transactions.

The Business Site Lease Administrative Plan outlines applicant responsibilities, leasing department duties, appraisal and rental requirements, environmental review processes, and approval procedures for new leases, renewals, subleases, assignments, permits, and emergency operating agreements. The Plan serves as a comprehensive framework governing leasing transactions on Navajo Nation trust lands.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0023-26 with a vote of five in favor and none opposed. As the final authority, the RDC's approval enacts the amendments to the Division of Economic Development Business Site Lease Administrative Plan and Management Plan.

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