

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0087-26_

SPONSOR: Arbin Mitchell

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Formally Opposing the Liquor License Application for the Chieftain Mobil Gas Station, Exit 333, Chambers, Arizona, Urging the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to Uphold the Apache County Board of Supervisors Unanimous Denial of Said Application, and Declaring the Navajo Nation's Opposition to Any Future Liquor License Applications for Establishments Immediately Adjacent to Navajo Nation Lands

Date posted: April 20, 2026 at 4:34PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0087-26

DATE: April 20, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; FORMALLY OPPOSING THE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE CHIEFTAIN MOBIL GAS STATION, EXIT 333, CHAMBERS, ARIZONA, URGING THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR LICENSES AND CONTROL TO UPHOLD THE APACHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUS DENIAL OF SAID APPLICATION, AND DECLARING THE NAVAJO NATION'S OPPOSITION TO ANY FUTURE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENTS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO NAVAJO NATION LANDS

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, would formally oppose the liquor license application for the Chieftain Mobil gas station in Chambers, Arizona, urge the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control to uphold the Apache County Board of Supervisors unanimous denial of said application, and declare the Navajo Nation's opposition to any future liquor license applications at or immediately adjacent to Navajo Nation lands in the Chambers and Sanders areas.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Naabik'iyáti' Committee

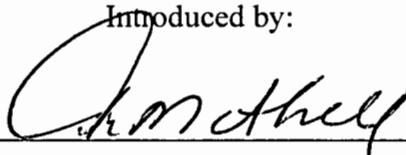
VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD:
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: 04-25-26
Eligible for Action: 04-26-26

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Fourth Year, 2026

3 Introduced by:

4 
5

6 Primary Sponsor

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8 Tracking No. 0087-26

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10 AN ACTION

11 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; FORMALLY OPPOSING
12 THE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE CHIEFTAIN MOBIL GAS
13 STATION, EXIT 333, CHAMBERS, ARIZONA, URGING THE ARIZONA
14 DEPARTMENT OF LIQUOR LICENSES AND CONTROL TO UPHOLD THE
15 APACHE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUS DENIAL OF SAID
16 APPLICATION, AND DECLARING THE NAVAJO NATION'S OPPOSITION TO
17 ANY FUTURE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENTS
18 IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO NAVAJO NATION LANDS

19
20 WHEREAS:

- 21 A. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation
22 Council empowered to coordinate all requests for information, appearances, and
23 testimony related to proposed county, state, and federal legislation impacting the
24 Navajo Nation. 2. N.N.C. §§ 700 (A) and 701 (A)(6).
- 25 B. The Navajo Nation is a sovereign tribal nation with an enrolled citizenry exceeding
26 420,000 members and maintains government-to-government relations with the
27 United States, the State of Arizona, and the counties within and adjacent to the
28 Navajo Nation's territorial jurisdiction, including Apache County.
- 29 C. The Navajo Nation possesses inherent authority over its lands, citizens, and the
30 health, safety, and welfare of its communities; and the Navajo Nation has long

1 maintained a policy prohibiting the sale, possession, and distribution of alcohol
2 within its jurisdiction except as expressly authorized under Navajo law, reflecting
3 both the Nation's sovereign values and its enduring commitment to the protection
4 and well-being of its people.

5 D. Applicant Sanjay Patel has submitted a liquor license application for the Chieftain
6 Mobil gas station located at Interstate 40 and U.S. Highway 191, Exit 333, in
7 Chambers, Arizona; a location immediately adjacent to and surrounded by Navajo
8 Nation lands and communities, and one that falls squarely within the sphere of
9 direct and foreseeable impact on Navajo citizens and chapter communities.

10 E. The proximity of the proposed establishment to Navajo Nation communities raises
11 substantial and well-documented concerns regarding public health, safety, and
12 welfare, including the demonstrated correlation between increased alcohol
13 availability and elevated rates of alcohol-related injury, family disruption, impaired
14 driving fatalities, and other serious harms that have disproportionately and
15 persistently affected Native communities throughout this region.

16 F. Navajo Nation chapters, commissions, veterans organizations, and human rights
17 bodies in the directly affected area have each independently acted to formally
18 oppose this application, evidencing broad, unified, and multi-institutional
19 community opposition across multiple levels of local Navajo governance; on
20 February 26, 2026, Delegate Arbin Mitchell transmitted this collective opposition
21 to the Apache County Board of Supervisors in the form of Wide Ruins Chapter
22 Resolution No. WRR-02-49, Klagetoh Chapter Resolution No. KLA 2354-02/2026,
23 Houck Chapter Resolution No. HCR 021926-05, Nahata Dziil Commission
24 Governance Resolution No. NDCG-2026-02-055, Tsi Si Ani Chapter Resolution
25 No. TSA-2026-03-012, Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Resolution No.
26 NNHRCFEB-02-2026, and Klagetoh Veterans Organization Resolution No. KVO-
27 02-26-01, together with a formal protest submitted by the Navajo Hopi Land
28 Commission Office, all of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein as
29 **Exhibit A.**

30

- 1 G. On March 3, 2026, the President of the Navajo Nation issued a formal letter to the
2 Apache County Board of Supervisors opposing the liquor license application,
3 reaffirming the Nation's sovereign position against the introduction of alcohol sales
4 at this location, and supporting the position of the surrounding Navajo
5 communities, attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.
- 6 H. On March 3, 2026, the Apache County Board of Supervisors considered the liquor
7 license application at a duly noticed public meeting during which community
8 members, chapter leaders, and stakeholders delivered testimony regarding the
9 harmful impacts of alcohol sales in the Chambers and Sanders areas; following
10 presentation by the County Manager and deliberation by the Board, a motion was
11 made, seconded, and passed unanimously to disapprove the liquor license
12 application for the Chieftain Mobil, with Board members expressly acknowledging
13 on the record the historical and ongoing harms associated with alcohol in the
14 surrounding communities and affirming their support for maintaining protections
15 against such impacts, as documented in the meeting agenda, materials, and official
16 minutes attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.
- 17 I. The Navajo Nation, its chapters, commissions, and community organizations have
18 consistently and vigorously opposed the issuance of liquor licenses in areas
19 immediately adjacent to Navajo lands, and the Nation's sovereign alcohol policies
20 are entitled to recognition and respect by neighboring jurisdictions as a matter of
21 intergovernmental comity and in acknowledgment of the direct and tangible
22 impacts that off-reservation alcohol sales impose upon Navajo citizens and
23 communities.
- 24 J. The concerns that give rise to the Nation's opposition to the present application are
25 not limited to this applicant or this proceeding, but are rooted in the enduring and
26 well-documented relationship between the geographic proximity of alcohol-
27 licensed establishments to Navajo lands and the resulting public health, safety, and
28 social harms borne by Navajo communities; accordingly, the Navajo Nation has a
29 compelling sovereign interest in opposing not only the current application but any
30 future application for a liquor license at this location or at any location immediately

1 adjacent to Navajo Nation lands and communities in the Chambers and Sanders
2 areas, regardless of the identity of the applicant or the form of the application.

3 K. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation, its citizens, and the surrounding
4 communities to formally confirm the Nation's opposition to this application, to
5 commend the Apache County Board of Supervisors for its unanimous denial, to
6 ensure that denial is vigorously upheld throughout any appeal, reconsideration, or
7 subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding, and to place all relevant
8 governmental authorities on notice of the Nation's standing opposition to future
9 liquor license applications in the affected area.

10
11 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 12 A. The Navajo Nation formally opposes the liquor license application submitted by
13 Sanjay Patel for the Chieftain Mobil gas station located at Interstate 40 and U.S.
14 Highway 191, Exit 333, Chambers, Arizona, on the grounds that approval would
15 threaten the health, safety, and welfare of Navajo citizens and communities and
16 would undermine the Navajo Nation's sovereign policies with respect to alcohol.
- 17 B. The Navajo Nation commends the Apache County Board of Supervisors for its
18 unanimous vote on March 3, 2026, to disapprove the Chieftain Mobil gas station
19 liquor license application, and formally recognizes the Board's responsiveness to
20 the testimony and resolutions of Navajo chapters, elected leaders, and community
21 members.
- 22 C. The Navajo Nation urges the Apache County Board of Supervisors to uphold and
23 defend its denial of the Chieftain Mobil gas station application in any appeal,
24 administrative review, or subsequent proceeding, and to reject any effort to
25 circumvent, reverse, or otherwise undermine that decision.
- 26 D. The Navajo Nation urges the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control
27 to uphold the Apache County Board of Supervisors denial of the Chieftain Mobil
28 gas station liquor license application.
- 29 E. The Navajo Nation further declares that the Navajo Nation's opposition extends to
30 any future application for a liquor license at this location or at any location

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immediately adjacent to Navajo Nation lands and communities in the Chambers and Sanders areas, irrespective of the identity of the applicant, the type of license sought, or the form of the proceeding, and directs that this Resolution be submitted as a matter of record in any such future proceeding.

F. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, Navajo Nation Vice-President, and the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and their designees to take all steps necessary to advocate for the Navajo Nation’s position with respect to this resolution.