



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

# 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 25, 2026**

## **Resources and Development Committee approves Red Mesa Chapter Community-Based Land Use Plan recertification**



**Resources and Development Committee approved the Red Mesa Chapter's reevaluated and reajusted Community-Based Land Use Plan.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On Monday, the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) of the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0110-26, certifying Red Mesa Chapter's reevaluated and readjusted Community-Based Land Use Plan, a strategic document that will guide future housing, infrastructure, economic development, land management, and community growth efforts over the next five years.

The legislation certifies Red Mesa Chapter's updated land use plan following a comprehensive review process involving community participation, public meetings, technical assessments, and collaboration among chapter leadership, land commissioners, and planning consultants. The updated plan revises the chapter's 2017 Community-Based Land Use Plan and reflects current community priorities and long-term development goals.

Under the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act, community-based land use plans are required to be reevaluated and readjusted every five years to address changing community needs. The updated Red Mesa plan incorporates assessments of natural resources, infrastructure, housing, economic development opportunities, cultural resources, and environmental considerations to support responsible growth and long-term sustainability.

RDC Chair Brenda Jesus emphasized the importance of community-based land use plans as foundational planning documents that empower local communities to identify development priorities and guide future investments.

"I commend the chapter officials, land use planning committee members, consultants, and community members for working together to complete this recertification and for continuing to move the community forward," said Chair Jesus.

Council Delegate Curtis Yanito, legislation sponsor and representative of Red Mesa Chapter, said the updated plan provides a roadmap for future generations while preserving the chapter's cultural and natural resources.

"This updated land use plan reflects the vision and priorities identified by the people of Red Mesa. It's been a long effort. We have established a roadmap that will guide housing development, infrastructure improvements, economic opportunities, and responsible land management for future generations. Recertification ensures that our chapter remains prepared to pursue development projects while protecting the resources and traditions that define our community," said Delegate Yanito.

During committee discussions, members recognized the extensive work undertaken by Red Mesa Chapter officials, land commissioners, and community members to update the plan following delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Committee members noted that community-based land use plans are essential tools for identifying future development priorities, supporting infrastructure investments, and strengthening local decision-making.

Council Delegate Shawna Claw emphasized that chapters should also incorporate emergency preparedness planning into their long-range community planning efforts to better protect residents during unforeseen events.

"I want to stress that all chapters should have an emergency response plan. Although it's not required under Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code, the Local Governance Act, it should be included so the community knows how to respond to emergencies," said Delegate Claw.

Resources and Development Committee member Rickie Nez commended Red Mesa Chapter for completing the update process and maintaining a forward-looking vision for community development.

"Community-based land use plans help chapters prepare for future growth and provide a foundation for responsible development. Red Mesa Chapter has demonstrated strong leadership and community engagement in updating this plan, ensuring that future projects align with local priorities while preserving the community's cultural and natural resources," said Delegate Nez.

The legislation notes that Red Mesa Chapter approved the updated plan through Chapter Resolution RMC-06-090825 and that the Navajo Nation Department of Justice determined the plan to be legally sufficient. The plan includes assessments of population trends, housing needs, transportation infrastructure, utilities, economic development opportunities, environmental considerations, and future land-use designations designed to meet evolving community needs.

Legislation No. 0110-26 was approved by the Resources and Development Committee, which serves as the final authority on the measure. The committee voted five in favor and none opposed to certify Red Mesa Chapter's Community-Based Land Use Plan.

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