



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE **PRESIDENT**
JONATHAN NEZ **VICE PRESIDENT**

MEMORANDUM

TO: NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

FROM:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Begaye", written over a horizontal line.

Russell Begaye, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE: June 29, 2016

SUBJECT: VETO ALERT REGARDING LEGISLATION No. 0190-16: RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, LAW AND ORDER, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 16 CHAPTER 1, CHAPTER 3, CHAPTER 5, CHAPTER 6 AND CHAPTER 7 AND ENACTING THE NAVAJO NATION LAND ACQUISITION ACT OF 2016.

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. 1005 (C)(10), action for Legislation No. 0190-16 is subject to action by the Navajo Nation President. After review of **Legislation No. 0190-16**, I write to inform the Navajo Nation Council that the Office of the President and Vice President cannot support this legislation for several reasons but will list the main concerns here:

1. Infringement on the authority of the Navajo Hopi Land Commission

- a. Land shall be for the benefit of the Navajo Nation

Lands acquired by the Navajo Hopi Land Commission pursuant to P.L. 93-538 are to be for the benefit of Relocatee as defined in the Federal Statute. This legislation violates Federal law and infringes on authority of the Navajo Hopi Land Commission to carry out its duties to Relocates.

- b. Limits the Commission existing authority to only Arizona and New Mexico

The Navajo Hopi Land Commission authority is not only within Arizona and New Mexico, but 18 miles from the present boundary. This means Colorado and Utah. The