

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Second Year, 2020

AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE NAVAJO NATION RELATING TO THE STATE OF ARIZONA

WHEREAS:

- A. Statements of policy, enactment of positive law, intergovernmental agreements, budget resolutions, and reallocations, must be reviewed and approved by resolution by the appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation Council except as otherwise provided herein. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A).
- B. Statements of policy are written statements submitted to federal, state or local governments by a Navajo Nation official stating the official position of the Navajo Nation on proposed legislation or other action by that government. 2 N.N.C. § 110 (W).
- C. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A) and 701(A)(6).
- D. Each of the Standing Committees of the Navajo Nation Council recommended 2021 Arizona Legislative Priorities for their respective area(s) of oversight to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee's State Affairs Task Force Subcommittee; after review and discussion, the State Affairs Task Force compiled the Standing Committee recommendations into the 2021 Arizona Legislative Priorities attached and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.
- E. The Navajo Nation Naabik'íyáti' Committee's State Affairs Task Force Subcommittee recommends the Naabik'íyáti' Committee approve the 2021 Arizona Legislative Priorities attached as **Exhibit A**.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Navajo Nation hereby approves the Navajo Nation's legislative priorities relating to the State of Arizona for 2021, attached as **Exhibit A**, as determined by the 24th Navajo Nation Council and authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, and their designees, and the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, to advocate the position of the Navajo Nation with the State of Arizona, State of Arizona Legislature, Arizona State Agencies, and the State of Arizona Governor's Office for the preservation of funding and policies in the Navajo Nation's priority areas.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 22 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 11th day of December 2020.


Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

12/16/2020
Date

Motion: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka
Second: Honorable Jimmy Yellowhair

Chairman Seth Damon not voting



NAVAJO NATION PRIORITIES

ARIZONA

Speaker Seth Damon, 24th Navajo Nation Council

1. COVID-19 Issue Response

- a. Advocate to Arizona State and National elected and administration officials for the acquisition and dissemination, in coordination with Navajo Nation, of COVID-19 vaccine to prevent and decrease the COVID -19 virus among the Navajo people.
- b. Advocate to obtain all possible resources for the effective management of COVID-19, PPE supplies for the protection of Navajo front-line workers treating or responding to COVID 19 pandemic, and all needed resources and supplies needed for the survival of the Navajo People.
- c. Advocate to obtain essential food, water and medical supplies for Navajo members to sustain themselves during the course of the COVID-19 virus.
- d. Obtain all possible resources for the effective management of COVID-19, PPE supplies for the protection of Navajo front-line workers treating or responding to COVID 19 pandemic, and all needed resources and supplies needed for the survival of the Navajo People. COVID-19 mitigation
- e. Navajo Nation involvement with state planning to minimize numbers

2. Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) (Arizona)

- a. Tax funding is not collected and paid to the Navajo Nation

3. Community Development

- a. Joint-Use National Guard Post/Veteran's Office
 - This project would have federal participation and funding for a mission attached to the joint use facility.
 - Available for Navajo community use.
 - Previously Chinle Chapter indicated they had raised \$1.25 million matching funds for the project as well.
- b. Counties to work with local chapters on road maintenance
 - Need paved roads for first responders
- c. Support additional Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) funding for Navajo counties, including Apache, Navajo and Coconino.
- d. Increase Navajo portion from Arizona Fuel Excise Tax from 12 cents to 16 cents.
 - Increase maintenance and improvements on current/new school bus routes.
- e. Broadband in the Southwest communities. Anticipating the "smart highway" (i.e. Interstate-40), seeking \$6.5 million to connect to Broadband.
- f. Transmission Line for Southwest Chapters, with the new medical facility in Dilkon, AZ, more power is needed in the surrounding communities.
- g. Waterline – Leupp area. Initial Study has been completed but would like further research on how to service the SW NN communities

- h. Wi-Fi accessibility for students/ online learning
- i. Support and funding for Sawmill, Crystal and Houck/Lupton Fire Department Sub-stations.
- j. Support and funding for waterlines in Wide Ruins community and to drill wells in Wide Ruins and Klagetoh communities.
- k. Support for community Solid Waste Transfer Stations in the communities of Teec Nos Pos and Tolikan, AZ with construction funding as well as recurring annual allocations for operation and maintenance.
- l. Saint Michaels Chapter House Renovation and Addition.

4. Economic Development

- a. Prioritize State funding for Navajo development between: (A) Capital Projects, (B) Dual Taxation, or (C) TPT Equity.
- b. Continue to protect Navajo gaming from private or state expansion.
- c. Support Navajo efforts to keep Navajo Four Corners Power Plant open.
- d. Support the Navajo Nation in transitioning to renewable energy for sustainable economic diversification.
- e. Support Navajo Nation Economic Development within the I-40 corridor.
- f. Support of immediate improvement of infrastructure, electricity, waterlines and roads in the Navajo Partition Lands-Former Bennett Freeze.
- g. Options to Fund Navajo small businesses
- h. Enhance broadband to support, entrepreneurs
- i. Tourism, agriculture businesses, trade foods, taxation
- j. Re-enforcement of Opportunity Zones
 - State and federal level-provide incentives for businesses outside of Navajo
 - Indian country project infrastructure map and plan for planning zones, economic zones, royalties

5. Education

- a. Monitor and support the implementation of *Proposition 207, Education Tax Increase*, passed in 2020.
- b. Seek funding at State and National Levels for telecommunications improvement to facilitate online instruction.
 - Support Governor Ducey's plan for additional K-12 funding; 20% over three years.
- c. Expand Code Writers Education Program for Navajo students.
 - Oppose any additional measure of Desegregation Phase Down, which will cost Arizona schools funds for school serving Navajo children.
- d. Continue to advocate for expanding Tribal College Dual Credit Program.

6. Public Safety

- a. Continue support for First Net implementation.
- b. Introduce Liquor Bill to limit liquor store placement close to the Navajo Nation.
- c. Cross Commissioning/Training and for Navajo DPS and Counties.
- d. Improvements within their respective jurisdiction, being pro-active of the County Sheriff and the Arizona Department of Public Safety on the Navajo Nation
- e. Kayenta Judicial Complex, \$2.5 million
- f. Dilkon Public Safety Building, \$2 million
- g. Shiprock Public Safety Facility, \$1 million from AZ; (\$1 million from Utah, \$3.5 million from New Mexico, both appropriated.)
- h. Broadband, telecommunication
- i. Centralize dispatch center, funding for data collection, training, incorporate the federal database with Navajo Nation Courts
- j. Detention center complex needs to be constructed
- k. Police officers need assistance
- l. Firefighters, EMT, BIA enforcement Support families
- m. Crimes against HIPPA, need incarceration policies and enforcement for habitual offenders, and assault.
- n. State support and funding for Nahatadzil Navajo Police headquarters building.

7. Social Services

- a. Protect existing social service programs from being cut, or eligibility being reduced.
- b. Secure Senior Center funding increases because of increasing needs on the Navajo Nation
- c. Racial attitudes of border towns
 - human rights issues re: COVID-19;
 - refusal of border towns to allow Navajos who tested positive for COVID-19 within their city limits to receive services and quarantine in a contracted facility
 - need to work with border towns to minimize racist attitudes evident when Navajos shop in border towns
 - coordinate with border towns when Navajo closes borders, imposes curfews
- d. Well-ness Center Program
 - Sexual Assault Database, children and family crimes
 - Consultation with FBI, U.S. Attorney General to share information on Domestic Violence cases
 - Provide opportunities for enhancement of monitoring of anyone who enters the Navajo Nation
- e. State support and funding for Nahatadzil community park.

8. Health Care

- a. Navajo initiative to publicize Kids Care availability.
- b. Maintain Arizona policy on not eliminating work requirements and 5-year lifetime limits for tribal members on AHCCCS.
- c. Support the reintroduction and passage of Arizona legislation to require AHCCCS to provide for chiropractic services.
- d. Dilkon Medical Center construction and anticipated opening. Retaining professionals in the area with housing
- e. Tele-Health for Elders accessibility and process.
- f. Support and funding for the Tuba City Regional Healthcare Corporation Oncology Center on the Navajo Nation.

9. Natural Resources

- a. Quadrilateral agreement negotiation with National Park Service, Arizona, City of Page
- b. LCR settlement process that Navajo initiates with Hopi and the State.
- c. Water Rights, water infrastructure needed for agriculture, economic development, and sustainability;
- d. Support the continued operation of Four Corners Power Plant (Regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission).
- e. Upon the closure of the Navajo Generating Station, support the Navajo Nation in transitioning to renewable energy for sustainable economic diversification.
- f. Monitor Colorado River negotiations for any impact on Navajo.
- g. Monitor deregulations docket at the Arizona Corporation Commission.
- h. Continued protection of sites sacred to the Navajo Nation.
- i. The United States Department of Agriculture, Arizona Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) State Conservationist to work government-to-government with the Navajo Nation pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement between the State and Navajo Nation to assist the Navajo Nation Soil Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, and the Navajo Nation District Grazing Committee plan of Operation to 1) Conserve water, dams, forage, and lands and 2) To rebuild areas where deteriorated.

10. Navajo Veterans

- a. Veterans Centers, multiple projects, \$18 million notify targeted qualified veterans for tax refund, application process, and the time limit to obtain funds.
- b. Ensure sufficient state budget funding for the Arizona Department of Veteran's Services to serve Navajo Veterans.
 - State Agency to Work with Navajo Veterans Agency to ensure effective delivery service.

- c. Advocate for additional funding for Veterans Education Assistance and boost workforce opportunities for Veterans.
- d. Increase funding for services related to Social Services and Mental Health.
- e. Advocate for grants to fund community agencies to provide services for community and veterans cemeteries.
 - Veterans Wellness Center, \$10.9 million

11. Transportation

- a. Increased TTP for roads and bridge replacement funding
 - Support Arizona Department of Transportation's application for 2018 Competitive Highway Bridge Program: US 191 Bridge Bundle Project.
 - Chinle Wash Bridge (Structure No. 1003) Rehabilitation and repair
- b. Agua Sal Wash – Southbound Bridge (Structure No.1004) - Partial bridge deck replacement;
- c. Agua Sal Wash – Northbound Bridge (Structure No. 1005) - Bridge Replacement; Lukachukai Creek (Structure No. 1006)- Bridge Replacement.
- d. Road Improvements in the Whitecone Chapter area
- e. Indian Wells School area bridge replacement, needs attention
- f. Support the State Right-of-Way.
- g. Road Conditions and commuter safety issues within the Tolikan Chapter area need constant improvement, particularly BIA 351 and HWY 160 pavement as well as shortfall funding of N35 (from end of pavement to N5045).
- h. Highway and School Bus Stop Safety Corridors for Highways 64, 77, 87, 89, 98, 99, 160, 163, 264, 191, N41, and N8031 to better protect communities on tribal trust lands.
- i. Road improvement(s) for 9402 in the Lupton and Houck area.
- j. Road improvements in the Wide Ruins and Klagehoh Chapter communities.
- k. State support and funding for Nahatadzil Navajo Police headquarters building.
- l. Road improvements and repairs on Hwy 160 milepost 369 between Kayenta and Shonto.

12. Tribal-State Relations

- a. Improvements to the Government-to-Government relationship in all aspects of state funded programs on Navajo Tribal Trust Lands, including but not limited to AZ DPS, Public Schools, Economic Aid, Social Services, Taxes, Veterans Affairs, AZ Department of Transportation, AZ Department of Economic Security, Department of

Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Services), and Address Uranium Contamination with the Rio Puerco water ways, Lupton, Nahatadzil, Houck, Sanders, and Wide Ruins.

NAVAJO NATION

789

12/11/2020

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Special Meeting

08:16:46 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0304-20: Approving	PASSED
MOT Wauneka, E	and Adopting the 2021	
SEC Yellowhair	Legislation Priorities of the	
	Navajo Nation Relating to the...	

Yeas : 22	Nays : 0	Excused : 0	Not Voting : 1
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Yea : 22

Begay, E	Daniels	Smith	Tso, O
Begay, K	Freeland, M	Stewart, W	Walker, T
Begay, P	Halona, P	Tso, C	Wauneka, E
Brown	James, V	Tso, D	Yazzie
Charles-Newton	Nez, R	Tso, E	Yellowhair
Crotty	Slater, C		

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 1

Henio, J

Presiding Speaker: Damon