

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- First Year, 2023

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

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 25th Navajo Nation Council Delegates representing New Mexico chapters and communities recommended New Mexico Legislative Priorities for their respective area(s) of oversight to the New Mexico Caucus of the Navajo Nation Council; after review and discussion, the New Mexico Caucus compiled the recommendations into the New Mexico Legislative Priorities attached and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Navajo Nation hereby approves the Navajo Nation's legislative priorities relating to the State of New Mexico, attached as **Exhibit A**, as determined by the 25th 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 New Mexico, State of New Mexico Legislature, New Mexico State Agencies, and the State

of New Mexico 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 25th 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 11 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 13th day of July 2023.



Honorable Vince R. James, Chairman Pro Tem
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

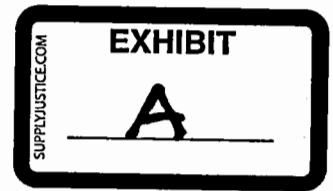
7/17/2023

Date

Motion: Honorable Shaandiin Parrish

Second: Honorable Nathan Notah

Chairman Pro Tem Vince R. James not voting



**NAVAJO NATION PRIORITIES
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
25TH Navajo Nation Council**

1. Capital Outlay & Infrastructure

- a. **Remove or Extend the 5% Obligation Requirement.** New Mexico's current policy requires the Nation to obligate 5% of the appropriated amount within 6 months of acceptance of the Intergovernmental Grant Agreement (IGA). Due to the nature of the Nation's governmental structure, requiring 5% of funds to be obligated within 6 months of acceptance of the IGA creates unnecessary hardship for Navajo Nation programs implementing the funding. Therefore, it is a priority of the Nation to have the 6-month deadline removed or extended in future funding agreements.
- b. **Have the State Recognize Delegation of Signing Authority by the Navajo Nation President.** New Mexico currently requires the Navajo Nation President to be the signatory on all IGAs. This practice is not mirrored in the State which only requires the Secretary of the Indian Affairs to sign the IGAs. Requiring the Navajo Nation President to be the signatory on all IGAs forces the Nation to place every IGA through its internal administrative review process. This significantly slows down the execution of the IGAs by the Nation. Therefore, it is a priority of the Nation that New Mexico recognize a signatory delegation from the Navajo Nation President to the Director of the Division of Community Development.
- c. **Require Quarterly Coordination Meetings between the Nation and New Mexico.** In the past the Navajo Nation and the State held quarterly meetings with appropriate stakeholders to go over pending projects. These meetings allowed the Nation and the State to receive an update on pending projects, share pertinent information, and provide relevant trainings. These meetings have not been consistently held since COVID. Without these meetings the Nation has seen a rise in level of misinformation and miscommunication between the Nation and the State. Therefore, it is a priority of the Nation to have regularly scheduled quarterly meetings between itself and the State on pending projects.
- d. **More Communication Between the Nation and New Mexico Prior to the Allocation of Funds.** The way the New Mexico funding process is currently structured results in New Mexico approving a lot of underfunded and non-feasible projects. This creates a stress on the Nation who is tasked with being the fiscal agent for projects that do not have enough funding to complete or are not actually feasible. It is a waste of the Nation's limited resources to work on these projects since there is no guarantee the projects will ever be fully funded or completed. It has also come to the Nation's attention that the State may be purposefully underfunding projects with the expectation the Nation will provide matching funding. However, there is no

communication from the State on its expectations or reasons for underfunding projects or whether the proposed projects are actually feasible. This results in the approval of projects that are not able to be completed within the State's timeline. The Nation believes that more communication between New Mexico and the Nation prior to the allocation of funds will result in more projects being funded that can be fully completed. Therefore, it is a priority of the Nation to engage in more conversations with the State on proposed projects prior to the allocation of funding.

- e. **More Joint Trainings Between the Nation and the State.** In order to combat misinformation and confusion among the Navajo community on New Mexico funded projects it is a priority of the Nation to conduct more joint trainings and informational sessions with New Mexico to ensure that the same message is being presented by both governments to the local community.

2. Public Safety

- a. Tribal consultation on policy changes to former Executive Order or issuance of new Executive Order
- b. Increase State Funding for public safety headquarters and corrections buildings in Shiprock
- c. Improve communication and coordination between State and Tribal police on marijuana and hemp
- d. Support for fire station facilities with emergency response capabilities
- e. Increase cross commissioning for law enforcement officials across the state, county, tribal and federal agencies to respond to emergency.
- f. Align State and county Tier 3 sex offenders registry criteria/policies with tribal agencies throughout the state and coordinate among agencies to ensure the protection of the public
- g. Improve policies and registration for sex offenders
- h. Enhance broadband services throughout the Satellite chapter communities (Raman, Tohajilee, Alamo)
- i. Provide self-defense and de-escalation techniques training including active shooter training by state and federal agencies
- j. Request development of policy for removal of State employees or political designee if accused of felony assault causing personal harm to citizens
- k. Enact any emergency funding opportunities when the Navajo Nation declares a state of emergency due to natural disasters such as snowstorms or monsoon season
- l. Assist with State funding for an inter-coordinated tribal information management system

- m. Secure information and propose data-sharing agreements with State law enforcement agencies for missing and murdered Navajo relatives initiatives
- n. Expand partnerships with external entities, striving to resolve the missing and murdered indigenous person crisis
- o. State Funding to Help in securing E911 Service
- p. Emergency Management Funding
- q. Human Trafficking Awareness
- r. Increase funding for Sexual Assault Prevention Programs
- s. Increase Juvenile Justice Programs
- t. Improved communications for dead zones for public safety

3. Healthcare & Public Health

- a. Establishing the Navajo Nation IMCE with Nataani Development Corporation & Molina
- b. Develop programs with the State, including victim's services and victim advocates, that support families with a missing or murdered Navajo relative
- c. Explore Options to Stop Alcohol Exposure Deaths
- d. State Funding for Detox Centers
- e. Expanding Options for Access and Regulation to Medical Marijuana
- f. Medicaid/Snap Assistance for Navajo Constituents
- g. Secure and Increase Women, Infant & Child (WIC) Funding
- h. State support for new Indian Health Services facility in Gallup
- i. Health Care improvements

4. Community Development & Housing

- a. Improve Right of Way (ROW) process with Navajo Nation
- b. Involve Tribe in proposed railway system discussions
- c. Funding for transitional housing for Navajo victims of violent crimes and their families
- d. Address unique position and location of 3 satellite Chapter communities (Ramah, Tohajilee, Alamo) with the State
- e. Address Redistricting for election purposes
- f. Telecommunications Infrastructure (Broadband Infrastructure, Internet Development, Cell Tower Transmission Infrastructure)

- g. Energy Transition Act Job Retraining
- h. Increase state funding for roads and bridge replacement funding (Roads/Bridges coordination with counties regarding Right of Way (ROW) assistance from County roads department. Historic Shiprock Bridge needs funds for development for tourism for revenue generation)
- i. Initiate State Funding options for Housing Assistance; Address Veterans housing
- j. State funding and support for county, state, and tribal roads within checkerboard area lands in the Eastern Agency
- k. State support to convert Fort Wingate into a federal monument

5. Natural Resources

- a. Obtain state funding and assistance to mitigate uranium cleanup with the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency
- b. Oppose any radiation repository near the Navajo Nation lands or on Navajo Nation lands.
- c. Tribal consultation and discussion of hydrogen hub
- d. Water Infrastructure and Water Rights-Navajo Gallup Water Project
- e. RECA miners and down winders assistance
- f. NM Energy Act
- g. Protect Navajo Nation interests concerning the San Juan Generating Station, including economic
- h. Recognize and Protect Sacred Sites
- i. Cultural Resources and Preservation
- j. Antiquities Act Preservation
- k. Tribal consultation concerning the Energy Transition Act (ETA) - Constitutional Amendment
- l. Agriculture and Ranching Recognition and State Funding
- m. Tribal and community consultation on Drought Management Policy Change
- n. Support Navajo NRCS, range management, land reform
- o. Tribal and community consultation on policies for farmers and ranchers, irrigation canals, food systems, and farming equipment

6. COVID-19 Pandemic

- a. COVID-19 response and retain protocol by State

- b. Advocate to New Mexico State 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
- c. Obtain all possible resources for the effective management of COVID-19 mitigation and recovery

7. Social Services & Human Services

- a. Consider state grassroots organizers in the planning on state governmental affairs. Their insight and work are predominant across the state related to MMIW, agriculture, economic development planning, health, LGBTQ+ initiatives, etc.
- b. Address human rights issues in “border towns” regarding Navajo citizens
- c. Respond to and combat instances of missing Navajo persons, murder and human trafficking on and off the Navajo Nation. Develop solution-based pathways for healing and justice through wrap around services, programming, and prevention with the State
- d. Senior centers funding from NM (Secure and increase state funding; explore new structure and options of state funding for better food plans and assistance; consultation needed with Navajo Nation Chapters)
- e. Veterans - Resources and funding to establish veteran's wellness court; address Veterans medical care
- f. 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)

8. Education

- a. Equalization formula for Impact Aid regarding Yazzie/Martinez case commitment and expectations of school safety (protection of mind, body, and spirit) and supporting the bilingual seal of the Navajo Nation
- b. State obligated to pay school districts
- c. Funding for cultural and traditional learning
- d. State Option for Funding: Perm Fund at 1 % = \$ 700 million
- e. Early Childhood Education and Care
- f. Vocational and Technical Training
- g. Dual Enrollment Recognition - Tribal and State Colleges
- h. State funding for family learning centers/libraries

9. Economic Development

- a. Business Development of essential businesses
- b. Navajo Enterprises
- c. Small Businesses
- d. Major Retailer Relocate to NN
- e. Opposition towards Racinos

10. Protection of Existing Statutes & Future Legislations

- a. Amplify voice from the Navajo Nation with Navajo representation on any vacant or proposed state commissions, boards, or other opportunities
- b. Protecting of Existing Statutes
- c. State Tribal Collaboration Act
- d. New Mexico Indian Education Act
- e. Tribal Infrastructure