

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET  
Tracking No. 0213-21

**DATE:** October 8, 2021

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO REMOVE THE NAME OF CHRISTOPHER "KIT" CARSON FROM ALL MONUMENTS, STATE PARKS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, HIGHWAYS AND STREETS WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if approved, will request the State of New Mexico to immediately remove the name of Kit Carson from all governmental properties, including monuments, parks, highways, streets, etc. in the State of New Mexico, specifically including Kit Carson Park and Kit Carson Cemetery in Taos, New Mexico.

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

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: VS. DEADLINE  
Website Posting Time/Date: OCTOBER 12, 2021 6:55pm  
Posting End Date: OCTOBER 17, 2021  
Eligible for Action: OCTOBER 18, 2021

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
2 24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL— Third Year, 2021

3 INTRODUCED BY

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5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 Primary Sponsor

7 TRACKING NO. 0213-21

8  
9 AN ACTION

10 RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; REQUESTING THE STATE  
11 OF NEW MEXICO TO REMOVE THE NAME OF CHRISTOPHER "KIT"  
12 CARSON FROM ALL MONUMENTS, STATE PARKS, GOVERNMENT  
13 BUILDINGS, HIGHWAYS AND STREETS WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW  
14 MEXICO

15  
16 WHEREAS:

- 17 A. Navajo Nation statements of policy are written statements submitted to federal, state or  
18 local governments by a Navajo Nation official stating the official position of the Navajo  
19 Nation on proposed legislation or other action by that government. 2 N.N.C. § 110 (W).  
20 Navajo Nation statements of policy must be reviewed and approved by resolution of  
21 the appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation Council. *See* 2 N.N.C. §  
22 164 (A).
- 23 B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation  
24 Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyáti' Committee to assist  
25 and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to  
26 proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C.  
27 §§ 700 (A) and 701(A)(6).
- 28 C. The Navajo people have continuously lived in the southwest since time immemorial,  
29 but in 1863, Christopher ("Kit") Carson, a colonel of the First New Mexico Volunteers,  
30 led a formal campaign and destructive war against the Navajo. Carson and his troops

1           terrorized the Navajo people by burning crops, destroying homes, and slaughtering and  
2           killing livestock.

3           D. In 1863, Kit Carson and his troops, under the direction of General James Carleton,  
4           rounded up and forcibly removed approximately 8,000 Navajos from their ancestral  
5           lands and imprisoned them in a concentration camp known to the Navajo as “Hweeldi”  
6           in Bosque Redondo (Fort Sumner).

7           E. Navajos call the forced march of over 300 miles from their ancestral lands to Hweedli  
8           as the “Long Walk” or “Trail of Tears”. On the forced march, more than two-hundred  
9           Navajos died from adverse weather, illness, exhaustion, and the brutality of Carson and  
10          his troops.

11          F. While imprisoned at Fort Sumner, Navajos experienced slavery, starvation,  
12          prostitution, and disease. It is estimated that between 1864 and 1868 more than two  
13          thousand Navajos died at Fort Sumner. Kit Carson’s troops placed decedent’s remains  
14          in unmarked graves and prohibited Navajos from following their traditional burial  
15          practices.

16          G. Because of the brutal treatment of the Navajo people under the direction of Kit Carson,  
17          the Navajo Nation strenuously objects to any and all memorialization of Kit Carson,  
18          including the erection of monuments and the naming of parks, government buildings,  
19          highways, roads, etc. in his honor.

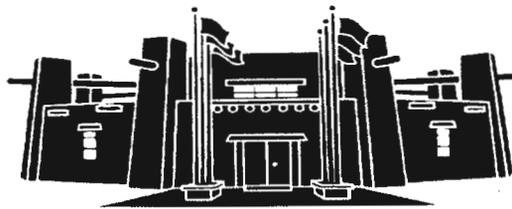
20          H. The Navajo Nation calls on the State of New Mexico to cease the naming of parks,  
21          government buildings, highways, roads, etc. in Kit Carson’s honor and specifically  
22          requests that the State of New Mexico immediately rename Kit Carson Park and Kit  
23          Carson Cemetery in Taos, New Mexico.

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25       **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

26          A. The Navajo Nation hereby requests the State of New Mexico to immediately remove  
27          the name of Christopher “Kit” Carson from all governmental properties, including  
28          monuments, parks, highways, streets, etc. in the State of New Mexico, specifically  
29          including Kit Carson Park and Kit Carson Cemetery in Taos, New Mexico.

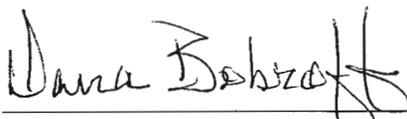
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B. The Navajo Nation hereby further requests that the State of New Mexico immediately cease naming governmental properties, including monuments, parks, highways, streets, etc. in the State of New Mexico in honor of Christopher "Kit" Carson.



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mark Freeland  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

FROM:   
Dana L. Bobroff, Chief Legislative Counsel  
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: November 8, 2021

SUBJECT: **AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;  
REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO REMOVE THE NAME  
OF CHRISTOPHER "KIT" CARSON FROM ALL MONUMENTS, STATE  
PARKS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, HIGHWAYS AND STREETS  
WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

Please ensure that his particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0213-21\_

SPONSOR: Mark Freeland

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Requesting the State of New Mexico to Remove the Name of Christopher "Kit" Carson from All Monuments, State Parks, Government Buildings, Highways and Streets Within the State of New Mexico**

*Date posted:* October 012, 2021 at 6:55 PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

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