



Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

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NEWS RELEASE:

22nd Navajo Nation Council concludes the final day of the 2012 Winter Session

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On January 26, 2012 at 10:00 am, the 22nd Navajo Nation Council resumed the third day of the 2012 Winter Session at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber.

During the final day of session, the Council considered ten legislations.

Legislation 0486-11, sponsored by Honorable Roscoe Smith, enacts the Navajo Nation Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Act of 2012.

The Council amended the legislation on page 80, line 12 to retain the original language by underscoring 80% and striking over 60% with a vote of fifteen (15) supporting and three (3) opposing.

The Council passed the amended legislation with nineteen (19) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation 0391-11, sponsored by Honorable LoRenzo C. Bates, requests the United States Federal Government support and fund the full build-out of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP), support the immediate reprogramming of \$8.5 million in Federal NIIP construction appropriations primarily for on-farm development of Block 9 of the NIIP, and support increase funding for operations and maintenance of the NIIP.

The Council amended the legislation, with a vote of seventeen (17) supporting and three (3) opposing, to insert the following language, “6. This legislation is and shall be deemed to be standing legislation of the Navajo Nation regarding the completion of the NIIP, proper funding of NIIP Operations and Maintenance, and the need for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to consult meaningfully with the Navajo Nation in advance of selecting any NIIP Project Manager. It states the consistent position of the Navajo Nation regarding these matters, and shall remain effective until the federal government’s obligation to construct the 110,630-acre NIIP is fulfilled and its obligation to shoulder the Operations and Maintenance burden until ten years after the project completion is satisfied.”

The Council passed the legislation with nineteen (19) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation 0400-11, sponsored by Honorable Joshua L. Butler, supporting the Tribal Exemption with the Arizona Demonstration Waiver and urging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to approve it.

The Council passed the legislation with sixteen (16) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation 0416-11, sponsored by Honorable Walter Phelps, recommended amendments to the Federal Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

The Council voted down the legislation with seventeen (17) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation 0428-11, sponsored by Speaker Johnny Naize, is in opposition to Congressional Legislation H.R. 1904, which proposes a land exchange in Southeastern Arizona for the purpose of mining operations.

The Council passed the legislation with seventeen (17) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation 0465-11, sponsored by Honorable Elmer Begay, confirmed the appointment of Heather L. Clah as the Executive Branch representative to the Navajo Nation Government Development Commission as put forth by the President of the Navajo Nation.

The Council passed the legislation with nineteen (19) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation 0432-11, sponsored by Honorable Lorenzo Curley, will reinstate Leanna Renay Ashley as an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.

The Council passed the legislation with eighteen (18) supporting and zero (0) opposing.

Legislation 0410-11, sponsored by Honorable Roscoe Smith, approves the Desert Creek Oil and Gas exploration and development operating agreement between the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company for certain trust lands in San Juan County, Utah (Navajo Nation).

The Council passed the legislation with twelve (12) supporting and nine (9) opposing.

Legislation 003-12, sponsored by Honorable Lorenzo Curley, would have confirmed the appointment of Floyd Steven as the Western Navajo Agency Council Representative to the Navajo Nation Government Development Commission as put forth by the Western Navajo Agency Council.

The Council tabled the legislation, due to the appointee's absence, with fourteen (14) supporting and three (3) opposing.

Legislation 0466-11, sponsored by Honorable Elmer Begay, confirmed the appointment of Martin Avery as the Judicial Branch representative to the Navajo Nation Government Development Commission as put forth by the Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

The Council passed the legislation with sixteen (16) supporting and three (3) opposing.

At the conclusion of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council 2012 Winters Session, delegates offered remarks about the session and expressed their appreciation to each other for work well done.

After thanking the staff of the Legislative Branch, Delegate LoRenzo Bates commented that "this has been a very spirited winter session."

"I want to thank the council too. This has been a very productive session and even though we debated a lot it helps me to identify, in my mind, on where we stand and where we should go," Delegate Leonard Tsosie commented.

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