



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 3, 2016

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### **Resources and Development Committee recommends further scientific studies of hydraulic fracturing on the Navajo Nation**

**TSE BONITO, N.M.** – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee considered Legislation No. 0226-16, which recommends and requests scientific studies and public education on the environmental impacts from hydraulic fracturing used in oil and natural gas extraction, also known as “fracking.”

RDC member Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa), who sponsored the legislation, emphasized the importance of transparency with the Navajo people regarding energy and policy change.

“This legislation is for the Navajo public. It will allow public education and dialogue on a sensitive issue. From my viewpoint, Navajo communities do not know much about hydraulic fracturing’s benefits and effects. A lot of people assume and make bad judgments regarding fracking without considering research,” stated Delegate Filfred.

Delegate Filfred added that the legislation would comply with the 2013 Energy Policy, which was adopted by the Nation in 2013.

The 2013 Energy Policy states that communities impacted by energy development, such as fracking, should be educated about any energy development initiatives and has the opportunity for those communities to provide input regarding any energy development projects.

“Further scientific studies will allow the communities impacted by hydraulic fracturing to participate in the policy decision making. More scientific information will be gathered and analyzed before any policies are established regarding hydraulic fracturing,” added Delegate Filfred.

According to the legislation, “the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, and Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company would hold workshops with impacted communities concerning the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing and get input from the communities on ways to minimize and mitigate any negative impacts from the use of such technologies.”

RDC members approved the legislation with a 5-0 vote. The bill will move forward to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, which serves as the final authority for the bill.

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