



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2016

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Resources and Development Committee supports the Twin Arrows Glittering Mountain Family Entertainment Center's expenditure plan

TSE BONITO, N.M. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee considered Legislation No. 0355-16, which would adopt the Síhasin Fund Twin Arrows Glittering Mountain Family Entertainment Center economic development expenditure plan. The resolution would approve funding for the construction and development of the project from the Síhasin Fund in the amount of \$20.5 million.

Navajo Nation Shopping Centers, Inc. chief executive director officer Nathaniel Begay stated that the 68,000 square-foot entertainment center will house a 20-lane bowling alley, six screen theater, laser tag, child activity center, and a sports grill. The estimated cost of the entertainment center is \$23 million and NNSC has \$3.5 million to contribute to the project, added Begay.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) stated that the vicinity of the Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort is expanding and an attraction for families is needed within the area.

“TANCR is growing and it is in need of more economic development. The Navajo Nation Shopping Centers, Inc. has a plan to market to the families that visit the resort. Currently, there are no family oriented businesses at Twin Arrows. TANCR was created to attract tourists and the Nation needs to invest in more economic opportunities at the site,” stated Delegate Hale.

According to the legislation, the entertainment center will utilize direct funding from the Síhasin Fund in the amount of \$8 million for planning, development, construction, and infrastructure and the remaining \$12.5 million would be used in the form of a loan.

RDC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) asked if NNSC has any investors that could contribute to the project.

“We don't have any investors for the entertainment center project. We thought that NNSC should have the same opportunity as the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise because Council approved millions of dollars in grants and loans for the gaming industry. We ask for direct funding and a loan because we want to help the Nation economically. We'd rather pay interest payments to the Nation, than outside companies,” stated Begay.

RDC member Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa) asked if the entertainment center project was endorsed by the Naabik'iyátí' Síhasin Fund Subcommittee.

“Has the proposed project been presented to the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee? I think it would have been great if the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee supported this project before it went through the standing committees. Overall, this is a great project that the Nation can invest in,” stated Delegate Filfred.

The NNSC has presented to the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee with the Twin Arrows Glittering Mountain Family Entertainment Center plan but no recommendations or actions were taken by the subcommittee, instead the subcommittee said, “Thank you, good bye, and drive home safe,” stated Delegate Hale.

In opposition of the legislation, RDC member Council Delegate Jonathan Perry (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse'ii'ahi, Whiterock) stated that he would support the project if the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee endorsed it.

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) said the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee only makes recommendations and that he supports the proposed project.

“The subcommittee might say that the legislation is ‘going through the backdoor’ to receive Síhasin funds but the subcommittee does not own the people’s money. Therefore, I support this project because it belongs to the Navajo people,” stated Delegate Pete.

The Resources and Development Committed approved Legislation No. 0355-16 with a 4-1 vote and the Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for the bill.

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