



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee supports funding to bring the original Navajo Treaty of 1868 to the Navajo Nation

WINDOW ROCK – On Wednesday, the Resources and Development Committee considered Legislation No. 0027-18, which seeks the approval of supplemental funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$350,000 to allow the Navajo Nation Museum to exhibit/display for the public to view the original Navajo Treaty of 1868 to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the historical signing of the treaty.

In 1864, the Navajo people were forcefully removed from their homelands to march to Bosque Redondo, N.M, also known as The Long Walk. The Treaty of 1868 allowed the Navajo people to return to their homelands and established an intergovernmental relationship between the Navajo people and the U.S. government.

RDC chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat), who sponsored the legislation, stated that the return of the original Treaty of 1868 would present the opportunity for Navajo people to reflect, respect, and remember the adversities and challenges that the Navajo people have experienced and overcome.

“Hwéeldi, The Navajo Long Walk, marks an emotional time in Navajo history and the Treaty of 1868 allowed the Navajo people to return home. Since 1868, the Navajo people have grown in terms of strength and resiliency. The exhibit will allow our Navajo children to learn the history and allow Navajo citizens to honor our great Navajo leaders of the past,” said Delegate Shepherd.

The legislation states that the supplemental funding would be utilized for the shipping and insurance of the Treaty of 1868 from the National Archives in Washington D.C. to the Navajo Nation, exhibit consultants, exhibit construction, the purchase of interactive technical equipment, and production and educational material.

“There has been significant positive changes within the Nation since the signing of the Treaty of 1868. Therefore, we need to honor and commemorate our past leaders and brave Navajo people who returned home from Hwéeldi with a memorable exhibit,” said RDC member Council Delegate Jonathan Perry (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock).

Navajo Nation Museum director Manuelito Wheeler, said it would be the first time the Treaty of 1868 would be displayed on the Navajo Nation, while commending the 23rd Navajo Nation Council for supporting the initiative. If funding is secured and plans proceed accordingly, the Navajo Nation Museum would display the Treaty of 1868 exhibit for the public beginning on June 1, 2018.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0027-18 with a 4-0 vote. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for the bill.

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