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President Nygren expresses disappointment after Goulding's legislation fails by one vote

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PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren exits the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock Wednesday afternoon following the failed vote on Legislation No. 0025-23.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren expressed disappointment after legislation that would have put \$7.5 million toward the elderly, youth, public safety, and veterans in new revenue.

A total of 16 votes were needed to pass Navajo Nation Council Legislation No. 0025-23, which would have purchased Goulding's Monument Valley Lodge and Tours in Monument Valley, Utah. The Navajo Nation would have owned the property.

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But a technicality snagged the process. As a result, two Navajo Nation Council Delegates — Otto Tso and Rickie Nez — recused themselves and did not vote due to possible conflicts of interest.

The proposed legislation would have allowed the iconic lodge to continue attracting thousands of tourists annually to see the famous red rock spires.

President Nygren, who supported the legislation, said he was disappointed that Goulding's legislation failed.

“Goulding’s is an iconic business that attracts visitors from around the world,” said President Nygren. “Being able to give \$7.5 million could have helped ensure money was being added to the coffers.”

The President added the legislation not passing means it’s a loss for the Navajo people.

“We got to think about the loss for funds that would have gone to senior centers, public safety, and scholarships,” the President said.

With the legislation's failure, the legislation could be reintroduced as soon as Friday if the owners of Goulding’s allow it.

Goulding’s is a historic business and tourist attraction located in Monument Valley within the Navajo Nation.

It has been operating since 1924 and is famous for its panoramic views of the iconic buttes and mesas of Monument Valley.

The store has become synonymous with Monument Valley and is considered an iconic landmark in its own right, representing the history and allure of the Native American Southwest.

Navajo Nation Council Delegates Andy Nez, Germaine Simonson, Lamardo Aseret, and Cherilyn Yazzie voted against it. Delegate Seth Damon is excused from the ongoing session and did not vote.

Sacred land would have been reacquired with the passing of the legislation, the President said.

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