



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judiciary Committee appoints Council Delegate Harold Wauneka as shareholder representative

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – In a 5-0 vote, the Judiciary Committee of the 21st Navajo Nation Council passed Legislation No. 0119-10 today relating to the appointment of Council Delegate Harold Wauneka as a Judiciary Committee shareholder representative to the Navajo Community Development Financial Institution, Inc.

Council Delegate Wauneka (Fort Defiance) expressed approval for the nomination and said, "The intent of my role is to promote what is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation as it associates with the financial institution's goals and to make recommendations to ensure there are positive outcomes from the shareholder's participation."

Council Delegate Roy Dempsey (Oak Springs/St. Michaels), sponsor of the legislation, said Wauneka is an excellent fit as a CDFI shareholder representative, as he knows what services are needed in community and economic development.

"Delegate Wauneka is an advocate of community development," Dempsey explained. "His interest in community development will help as a shareholder to address issues and businesses needed on Navajo."

According to Navajo CDFI by-laws, 11 shareholder representatives are to be selected from each standing committee and once selected, the shareholder representatives will select the CDFI's Board of Directors who will establish the intent of the Navajo CDFI.

"We are going to every committee to appoint a shareholder so that a Board of Directors will be in place," added Dempsey.

The creation of the CDFI became possible after Legislation No. 0064-09, also sponsored by Council Delegate Dempsey, passed the Council floor with a 63-7 vote during the Navajo Nation Council Winter Session.

Dempsey said the purpose of the Navajo CDFI is to provide opportunities for Navajo entrepreneurs to establish small business ventures and also said, "The CDFI will help spur economic development and job opportunities on the Navajo Nation."

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