



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Resources and Development Committee tables legislation  
to rescind Uranium Resources Inc.'s right-of-way in Churchrock**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Tuesday, following nearly two hours of debate, the Resources and Development Committee tabled Legislation No. 0104-14, which is aimed to rescind RDCD-69-13, a resolution that grants Uranium Resources Inc. a right-of-way to properties in Churchrock, N.M.

The resolution was previously passed by the RDC on Dec. 24, 2013, which would allow URI to conduct an in-situ uranium recovery project in the Churchrock Chapter and authorized the establishment of a subcommittee to work with the Natural Resources Division, the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, and URI representatives to draft the terms of an agreement that results in mutual gains for the Navajo Nation and URI.

“I bring this legislation before you because there is two existing laws that we really did not look at. It is really conflicting and I think that there is a way to do this correctly if it is going to be done,” stated legislation sponsor Council Delegate George Apachito (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee).

The legislation states “portions of the Resolution No. 0373-13 conflict with the Diné Natural Resources Protection Act of 2005, The Radioactive Materials Transportation Act of 2012, and the Temporary Access Agreement dated July 19, 2013, between the Navajo Nation and HRI.”

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) urged committee members not to support the legislation.

“I do ask that you withdraw it. We have a 20% chance of winning this fight. What are you going to do if you lose jurisdiction? When we lose jurisdiction, we are going to be on the sideline. We won’t be able to object anymore,” stated Delegate Tsosie.

According to the legislation, in 1929, there was a deed between the Sante Fe Railroad and the United States Government that includes 42,000 acres of land in trust. URI has argued that the deed allows the company a right-of-way, to access uranium resources.

Navajo Nation Department of Justice attorney, David Taylor, supported the legislation to rescind, and said the issue is a complicated situation.

“The Navajo Nation Department of Justice supports this legislation. The legislation proposed by Delegate Apachito is fundamentally consistent with existing Navajo laws,” stated Taylor.

Another supporter of the legislation was Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau), who represents the community of Churchrock.

“I very much support this legislation. Think of the future. If this goes through, it is the kids that I am thinking of. What is going to happen to them? Why can’t URI understand that the Council already said ‘no’ to uranium. It is the greed,” stated Delegate Yazzie.

RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) recommended the legislation be tabled until the next meeting between the RDC subcommittee and URI.

RDC members tabled Legislation No. 0104-14 with a vote of 3-2.

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