



THE NAVAJO NATION

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PRESIDENT BEGAYE VETOES LEGISLATION AMENDING MEMBERSHIP OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION

WINDOW ROCK-On Friday, Feb. 10, President Russell Begaye vetoed Resolution No. CJA-12-17, which sought to amend membership of the Navajo Telecommunications Regulatory Commission.

In his veto message, President Begaye stated that he supported the original language of Legislation No. 0388-17. However, the legislation was amended to diminish the president's authority stating that if the president does not appoint a Commissioner within 60 days the Speaker shall make the appointment.

"Our disagreement with this legislation lies in Title 2," President Begaye said. "Title 2 gives the appointment authority of board members, commission members, and other board positions to the president."

This legislation opens the door for the Legislative Branch to appoint a Commissioner when certain criteria or conditions are not met.

"We disagree with this. We want to protect this authority not only for our administration but also for future administrations," he said.

The president said he does agree with the reduction of the commissioners "even if we need to abolish the whole commission."

"The regulatory office is primarily an administrative function. If the commission serves as just another bureaucracy that people deal with then we should consider eliminating it altogether," President Begaye said. "The reduction leads us in this direction. We need to be efficient and to address the needs of the Navajo people in an effective manner."

President Begaye encourages the 23rd Navajo Nation Council to re-submit this legislation with the original language.

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