

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0121-14

DATE: April 11, 2016

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, REOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT; NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WITHIN THE NAVAJO NATION

PURPOSE: This resolution if approved will establish that the Navajo Nation is opposed to the practice of hydraulic fracturing within the Navajo Nation.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed legislation in detail.

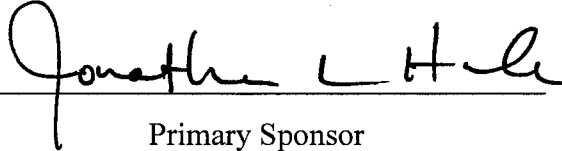
5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: None
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 4/18/2016
Eligible for Action: 4/19/2016

Health, Education & Human Services Committee
THENCE
Resources & Development Committee
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PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—SECOND YEAR, 2016

Naa'bik'íyáti' Committee

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0121-16

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, REOURCES
AND DEVELOPMENT; NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING WITHIN THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council to promulgate regulations and provide legislative oversight on matters involving health; and to review and recommend resolutions relating to health and environmental health. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 400 (C)(1); 401 (B)(6)(a) (2015).
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council to exercise oversight authority over water, land, environment, and environmental protection; and to promulgate rules and regulations governing environmental protection. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 500 (A); 500 (C); 501 (B)(1) (2015).
- C. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to recommend resolutions to the Navajo Nation Council on matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(1) (2015); *see also* CO-45-12.

- 1 D. Hydraulic fracturing (hereinafter “fracking”) is the injection of fluid into shale
2 beds at high pressure in order to free up petroleum resources (such as oil or
3 natural gas); fracking creates tiny fissures in the rock deep beneath the earth
4 which then allows gas and oil to flow into the well. *See* Merriam-Webster,
5 Definition of Fracking (April 6, 2016, 10:10 AM), [http://www.merriam-](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fracking)
6 [webster.com/dictionary/fracking](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fracking).
- 7 E. Currently, the United States has more than 500,000 active natural gas wells, each
8 well requires an average of 400 water tanker trucks to supply the site and takes
9 about one to eight million gallons of water to complete each well. *See* Linda
10 Dong, WHAT GOES IN AND OUT OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, (Apr.
11 11, 2016, 10:50 AM), <http://dangersoffracking.com>.
- 12 F. The fracturing site has water brought in and the water is mixed with sand and
13 chemicals to create the fracking fluid; the fracking fluid consist of 600 chemicals
14 including toxins such as lead, uranium, mercury, ethylene glycol, radium,
15 methanol, and formaldehyde; the fracturing fluid is then injected (10,000 feet)
16 into the ground through a drilled pipeline; and once the mixture reaches the end of
17 the well the high pressure causes the nearby shale rock to crack, creating fissures
18 where natural gas flows into the well. *See* Linda Dong, WHAT GOES IN AND
19 OUT OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, (Apr. 11, 2016, 10:50 AM),
20 <http://dangersoffracking.com>.
- 21 G. There are several potential reasons for considering fracking a few which include
22 economic benefits; reduction in air pollution and water use (as compared to other
23 fossil fuels); and switching from using coal for electricity to natural gas can
24 reduce sulfur, nitrogen, mercury and air pollution matter. *See* Robert B. Jackson,
25 et. al., THE ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS AND BENEFITS OF FRACKING
26 (2014).
- 27 H. There also various concerns such as: the water requirements for fracking; the well
28 integrity and fracturing induced stress to the land; risks to surface-water and
29 groundwater resources; induced earthquakes from fracking and the deep injection
30 of wastewater causing significantly higher-energy earthquakes; wastewater

1 disposal; surface spills; increase in volatile organic compounds; and locally the air
2 toxins are potential health threats. See Robert B. Jackson, et. al., THE
3 ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS AND BENEFITS OF FRACKING (2014).
4

5 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 6 A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby opposes the
7 practice of fracking within the Navajo Nation due to the potential environmental
8 and health risks associated with fracking.
- 9 B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the
10 Navajo Nation Speaker, the Navajo Nation Chief Justice and their designees, to
11 oppose the practice of fracking within the Navajo Nation due to the potential
12 environmental and health risks associated with fracking.
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