

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0040-23

DATE: March 15, 2023

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE NOMINATIONS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT TO THE EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will confirm the appointment of six (6) members, (5 Council Delegates and 1 Presidential appointee) to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission.

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 resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: 5:14pm; 03-15-23
Posting End Date: 03-20-23
Eligible for Action: 03-21-23

Naabik'iyati' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2023

INTRODUCED BY


(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0040-23

AN ACT

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION
COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE NOMINATIONS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT TO THE
EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITIES

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §102.
- B. A proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'iyati' Committee before it is heard by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §164 (A)(9),
- C. The Eastern Navajo Land Commission shall be composed of “Navajo Nation Council Delegates representing the so-called Checkerboard Area of the Navajo Nation, nominated by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council” and “one member shall be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation skilled in land and/or energy matters, selected by the President of the Navajo Nation and confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council.” 2 N.N.C. §§ 862 (B) and (C).

- 1 D. The six (6) Council Delegate representatives on the Eastern Navajo Land Commission
2 shall consist of one Navajo Nation Council member from each of the following areas:
- 3 1. Area I: Counselor, Huerfano and Nageezi Chapters;
 - 4 2. Area II: Becenti, Crownpoint, Lake Valley, Nahodishgish, Standing Rock and
5 White Rock Chapters;
 - 6 3. Area III: Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon/Star Lake and White Horse Lake
7 Chapters;
 - 8 4. Area IV: Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Iyanbito, Smith Lake, Littlewater,
9 Mariano Lake, Pinedale, and Thoreau Chapters;
 - 10 5. Area V: Bread Springs, Chichiltah, Rock Springs, Churchrock, Manuelito, Red
11 Rock, and Tsayatoh Chapters;
 - 12 6. Area VI: Alamo, Ramah and Tohajiilee Chapters.
- 13 2 N.N.C. § 862(B).
14

15 **SECTION 2. FINDINGS**

- 16 A. The Navajo Nation Council was reduced in membership from 88 delegates to 24
17 delegates, which required a change in standing committees, Resolution C0-45-12, but
18 also resulted in a realignment of Chapter representation which currently provides for
19 five (5) Council Delegates representing Chapters in the Eastern Agency, otherwise
20 known as the so-called Checkerboard Area. Resolution CMA-10-15, incorporated
21 herein by reference, first implemented the chapter realignment for the Eastern Navajo
22 Land Commission.
- 23 B. Each of the Navajo Nation Council Delegates shall serve as a member of the
24 Commission concurrent with his or her term as a Council Delegate and until his or her
25 successor is confirmed. 2 N.N.C. § 862(D).
- 26 C. The President of the Navajo Nation shall also select an enrolled member of the Navajo
27 Nation, skilled in land and/or energy matters, to sit on the Commission; the President's
28 selection shall be confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 862 (C).
- 29 D. The Commission shall appoint a Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson from among its
30 members, and may establish committees from among its members if deemed

appropriate by the Commission to facilitate the business of the Commission. 2 N.N.C. § 862(E).

E. The powers and duties of the Eastern Navajo Land Commission are found at 2 N.N.C. § 863 (A-J).

SECTION THREE. NOMINATIONS TO THE EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION

A. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council nominates the following Navajo Nation Council Delegates to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 862(B) and in consideration of the Chapter representation realignment as a result of the reduction in membership of the Navajo Nation Council:

1. Area II (Becenti, Lake Valley, Nahodisgish, Standing Rock, White Rock, Huerfano, Nageezi, Crownpoint): Hon. Danny Simpson
2. Area III (Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor): Hon. George Tolth
3. Area IV (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau): Hon. Steven R. Arviso
4. Area V (Baahaali, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh): Hon. Seth Damon
5. Area VI (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee): Hon. Norman Begay

C. The Navajo Nation President nominates Edmund Yazzie to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission.

D. The nomination letter by the President of the Navajo Nation is attached as **Exhibit A**.

SECTION FOUR. CONFIRMATION OF EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION

A. The Navajo Nation confirms the nominations of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission as:

6. Area II (Becenti, Lake Valley, Nahodisgish, Standing Rock, White Rock, Huerfano, Nageezi, Crownpoint): Hon. Danny Simpson

- 1 7. Area III (Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt,
2 Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor): Hon. George Tolth
- 3 8. Area IV (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau):
4 Hon. Steven R. Arviso
- 5 9. Area V (Baahaali, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh):
6 Hon. Seth Damon
- 7 10. Area VI (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee): Hon. Norman Begay

- 8 B. The Navajo Nation Council confirms the Navajo Nation President's nomination of
9 Edmund Yazzie to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission.
- 10 C. The Navajo Nation Council Delegates confirmed to the Eastern Navajo Commission
11 shall serve as a member of the Commission concurrent with their term as a Council
12 Delegate and until a successor is confirmed. 2 N.N.C. §862 (D).
- 13 D. The Navajo Nation Presidential nominee shall serve as a member of the Commission
14 until a successor is confirmed.



The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN**
Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTOYA**



March 15, 2023

Edmund Yazzie
P.O. Box
Jamestown, NM 87347


RE: Appointment to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission

Dear Mr. Yazzie,

I am pleased to appoint you to serve on the Eastern Navajo Land Commission.

The President has the honor of selecting a member who is skilled in land matters. Given your long history and service to the Navajo Nation, and especially to the eastern part of the Navajo Nation, I am proud to appoint you.

Ahéheo?


Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

March 14, 2023

Dr. Buu Nygren
Navajo Nation President
Window Rock, AZ

Greetings and Well Wishes,

My name is Edmund E. Yazzie. I am a former Council Delegate for the Chapters of Thoreau, Mariano Lake, Smith Lake, Pinedale, Churchrock, and Iyanbito. I have served 4 terms on the Council, first being elected in 2007.

Throughout the years of my service to my communities and constituents, I have served on various committees to help the people of our Nation. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in such offices, either as a member, or as a chairperson.

One such office I have served as Chairperson is the Eastern Navajo Land Commission (ENLC). Currently, the ENLC is comprised of the five Navajo Nation Council Delegates who represent their communities respectively in the Eastern Navajo Agency. And, as you may know, one person can be appointed by the Navajo Nation President to serve on this commission. This is the reason I am writing this letter to you today.

I believe the work of the Commission is very important for the benefit of the communities and the people of the Eastern Navajo Agency. During my tenure as first a Commission member, and then the Commission's Chairperson, important and crucial work has been accomplished for the benefit of the Navajo Nation as a whole, and its people. I am proud of the work that was accomplished by the ENLC, but I am confident there is much more the commission still needs to get done. One such project that is at a critical juncture is the Navajo Exchange Legislative Initiative (NELI) project. NELI is a project that started in 2007 and has been heavily invested with time and research.

Since 2007, NELI, for the *first* time will be introduced to the United States Congress within this year. Currently, New Mexico U.S. Senators Ben Ray Lujan and Martin Heinrich are aware of the NELI project, and have been briefed extensively by staff with the ENLC. Mr. Lujan's office is working with the ENLC staff to write and draft the bill, which will be finalized for introduction, hopefully by the spring session of Congress.

I would like to emphasize my extreme interest in this appointment, and I would be honored to represent your administration in the Eastern Navajo Land Commission. Please know that I am ready, and willing to continue working with the Commission to get this NELI bill passed by the U.S. Congress. It will benefit the people of the Eastern Navajo Agency and the Navajo Nation as a whole.

I Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If you should need to contact me I can be reached at (505) _____ or Email: _____@hotmail.com. I look forward to your response in due course.

Sincerely,



Edmund E. Yazzie
PO Box
Jamestown, NM 87347

EDMUND E. YAZZIE

Professional Summary

To use my knowledge and skills gained to ensure the well-being of individuals.

Experience

Navajo Nation Council Delegate, Office of Legislative Services Jan 2007-Jan 2023
Window Rock, AZ

- Planned, implemented and communicated needed legislations for the Navajo Nation, both at the Federal and state levels. Advocate for funding for the Navajo Nation Government
- Provided leadership oversight to the Navajo Department of Public Safety
- Coordinated and assisted elected chapter officials with needed community projects. Assisted and facilitated reports from the Council to chapter planning and regular meetings, as well as other related meetings

DWI Coordinator-DWI Resource Center Sept 2005-Dec 2006
State of New Mexico

- Assisted in coordinating DWI awareness and programs between the State of New Mexico – McKinley County and the Navajo Nation
- Developed public outreach programs for the Navajo Nation in coordination with the State

Resident Service Specialist Mar 2003-Sept 2005
Navajo Housing Authority

- Served as Acting Housing Director when Director was unavailable
- Provided assistance and information to Navajo homebuyers concerning NHA procedures
- Coordinate prevention programs for the housing residents emphasizing healthy/safe living

Investigator Aug 2001-May 2002
New Mexico 11th District Attorney's Office

- Assist attorneys with criminal cases, provide further investigation for prosecution
- Locate and transport witnesses to provide testimony on cases

Deputy Sheriff II Aug 1989-Aug 2001
McKinley County Sheriff's Dept.

- Routine patrol duties, enforcing State law enforcement procedures and became knowledgeable with all aspects of law enforcement procedures.
- Worked with the DARE program and the Police Athletic League (PAL), providing safety programs within the schools and local communities emphasize Community Policing

Police Officer Apr 1988-Aug 1989
Ramah Navajo Police Dept.

- Become knowledgeable in routine patrol duties, enforcing Tribal and Federal Law Enforcement procedures

Education

1986-1987 Police Certification
 University of New Mexico-Gallup Branch, Gallup, New Mexico

1982-1986 High School Diploma
 Rehoboth High School, Rehoboth, New Mexico

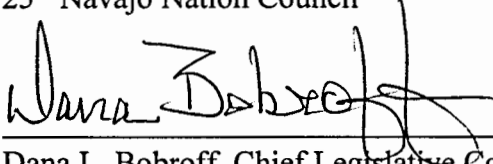
References

Available upon Request



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker (Sponsor)
Honorable Danny Simpson, (Co-Sponsor)
Honorable Seth Damon (Co-Sponsor)
25th Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Dana L. Bobroff, Chief Legislative Counsel
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: March 15, 2023

SUBJECT: **AN ACT RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE NOMINATIONS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT TO THE EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION**

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

Please ensure that his particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0040-23

SPONSOR: Crystalyne Curley

TITLE: An Act Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Nominations of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation President to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission

Date posted: March 15, 2023 5:14 PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

LEGISLATION NO.: 0040-23

SPONSOR: Honorable Crystalyne Curley

TITLE: An Act Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Nominations of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation President to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission

Posted: March 15, 2023 at 5:14 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: March 20, 2023

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	<i>None</i>
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Comments/Recommendations	<i>None</i>



**Policy Analyst
Office of Legislative Services**

March 21, 2023; 8:30 AM

Date/Time