

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23<sup>RD</sup> Navajo Nation Council---First Year 2015

AN ACTION

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; SUPPORTING ARIZONA H.B. 2158, "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY"

WHEREAS:

- A. "Statements of Policy are written statements submitted to federal, state or local governments, by a Navajo Nation official stating the official position of the Navajo Nation on proposed legislation or other action by that government." 2 N.N.C. §110 (W) (2012) see also CJA-03-13.
- B. Statements of policy "must be reviewed and approved by resolution by the appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation Council..." 2 N.N.C. §164(A) (2012) see also CJA-03-13.
- C. The Navajo Nation established the Law and Order Committee (LOC) as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and shall serve as the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch's oversight committee. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 600 (A), 601 (C)(1) (2012) see also CJA-03-13.
- D. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' to coordinate all state programs, i.e. Department of Economic Security, to provide for the construction of a Navajo Nation supreme court complex. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(4) (2012) see also CO-45-12.
- E. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of Arizona.

- F. The Navajo Nation has a separate and independent Judicial Branch that currently consists of a Supreme Court and eleven (11) judicial districts. The districts have civil, criminal and family courts. Such courts provide restorative probation and parole services and peacemaking program services. Further, the courts adjudicate cases, resolve disputes, rehabilitate individuals and families, restore harmony, educate the public, agencies, services and other governments in Diné bi bennahaz'áanii, and protect persons and property pursuant to Navajo Nation laws, customs, traditions and applicable federal laws.
- G. There has never been a permanent facility for the Navajo Nation Supreme Court. For many years, the Court has been located in modular buildings, with no formal space to hear oral arguments.
- H. Currently, there is a proposed project for a Navajo Nation Supreme Court complex. This proposed complex is construction-ready. The design of the Supreme Court building will embody the Diné ideas of justice and conflict resolution. The project will utilize nine acres in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (AZ) and is arranged in a campus style setting with facilities for the Supreme Court, the Peacemaking Program, Administrative Office, Probation and Parole Services, and amphitheater. The existence of such a facility will enhance confidence in the judicial system and will, furthermore, enhance public safety.
- I. House Bill 2158 is a bill introduced in the Arizona State legislature. The act proposes to appropriate \$7.5 million to the Arizona Department of Economic Security for distribution to the Navajo Nation for the construction of a supreme court complex. EXHIBIT A.
- J. This support aligns with the Navajo Nation's position to address the needs of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. The Navajo Nation supports Arizona House Bill 2158 entitled, "An Act Making an Appropriation to the Department of Economic Security".

- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, the Navajo Nation Chief Justice and their designees, to advocate for the appropriation.

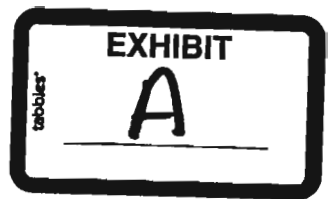
**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 15 in favor, 1 oppose, 0 Abstain this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2015.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'LoRenzo C. Bates', written over a horizontal line.

Honorable LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairperson  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Leonard H. Pete  
Second: Honorable Walter Phelps



REFERENCE TITLE: appropriation; Navajo Nation court complex

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-second Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2015

## HB 2158

Introduced by  
Representatives Hale, Meyer, Steele, Wheeler, Senator Begay:  
Representatives Alston, Gabaldón, Gonzales, Larkin, Otondo, Pratt, Rios,  
Saldate, Sherwood, Shope

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Appropriation; department of economic security;

3 Navajo Nation supreme court complex

4 The sum of \$7,500,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in  
5 fiscal year 2015-2016 to the department of economic security for distribution  
6 to the Navajo Nation for the construction of a supreme court complex.