

## **LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

**Tracking No.** 0086-23

**DATE:** April 7, 2023

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; REMOVING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; SELECTING A SPEAKER FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this legislation is to remove the current Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council and select a new Speaker for the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council.

**This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson  
Website Posting Time/Date: 10:35 PM; 04-21-23  
Posting End Date: 04-26-23  
Eligible for Action: 04-27-23

Naabik'íyáti' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

  
(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0086-23

AN ACTION  
RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION  
COUNCIL; REMOVING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION  
COUNCIL; SELECTING A SPEAKER FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION  
COUNCIL

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and shall consist of 24 delegates. 2 N.N.C. §102 (A).
- B. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council is selected by and serves at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council and shall serve for a term of two years. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 282 (A) and (C).
- C. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall be a member of the Navajo Nation Council in good standing. 2 N.N.C. § 281 (B).
- D. The Navajo Nation Council has all powers to discipline and/or regulate the conduct of its members. 2 N.N.C. § 102(D).
- E. The Speaker may be removed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full membership of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 286 (A).

- 1 F. The Navajo Nation Council has the authority to promulgate rules, regulations and  
2 procedures for the conduct of its meetings and that of its committees. 2 N.N.C. § 102  
3 (E).
- 4 G. If a vacancy should occur in the Office of the Speaker, the Navajo Nation Council shall  
5 select and confirm from among its members a successor for the remainder of the term.  
6 2 N.N.C. § 286 (B).
- 7 H. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council  
8 with responsibility to recommend resolutions to the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C.  
9 §§ 700 (A) and 701 (A)(3).

10

11 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 12 A. When the members of the Navajo Nation Council select and confirm their Speaker,  
13 they do so with the expectation that the selected Speaker can be trusted to be their  
14 Natahnii' and lead the Council and the Navajo people by example with honor, integrity,  
15 veracity and reliability at all times.
- 16 B. The Honorable Crystalyne Curley was selected as Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation  
17 Council on January 23, 2023 pursuant to Resolution No. CJA-02-23, attached as  
18 **Exhibit 1.**
- 19 C. Since her selection as Speaker, the Honorable Curley has not lived up to the  
20 expectations placed on her by the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council. Some examples of  
21 Speaker Curley not living up to the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council's expectations include:
- 22 1. Speaker Curley's and Office of the Speaker staff's lack of communication with  
23 the Delegates of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, despite repeated requests by  
24 Council Delegates to improve such communications;
  - 25 2. Speaker Curley has not provided her stance on the use of alcohol by Office of the  
26 Speaker staff, despite repeated requests by Council Delegates to do so;
  - 27 3. Speaker Curley did not immediately address safety and re-traumatizing concerns  
28 raised by Council Delegates related to a previous sexual harassment allegation  
29 against a member of the Office of the Speaker's staff; and  
30

1           4. Speaker Curley's inexperience and lack of leadership skills are not furthering the  
2           work of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo People.

3           D. The Navajo Nation Council has determined that removing Speaker Curley as Speaker  
4           of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council is the appropriate path to restore Hózhó within the  
5           Navajo Nation Council and to revitalize the Council's service to the Navajo People.  
6

7           **SECTION THREE. REMOVING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION**  
8           **COUNCIL**

9           The 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council hereby removes Crystalyne Curley as Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup>  
10          Navajo Nation Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 286 (A).  
11

12          **SECTION FOUR. SELECTION OF SPEAKER OF THE NAVAJO NATION**  
13          **COUNCIL**

14          A. In order that the selection of a Speaker for the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council be  
15          conducted in an orderly and efficient manner, the selection process shall comply with  
16          the process adopted in CJA-02-23, **Exhibit 1 (B)**.

17          B. Honorable \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby selected and confirmed as the  
18          Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 286 (B).

19          C. Honorable \_\_\_\_\_ shall serve as Speaker until the end of the  
20          term of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council and shall exercise all authorities of the Speaker  
21          as set forth in Title Two of the Navajo Nation Code.  
22

23          **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

24          This Action shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221 (A).  
25  
26  
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28  
29  
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RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FIRST YEAR, 2023



AN ACTION

RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; SELECTING  
AND CONFIRMING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and shall consist of 24 delegates. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- B. The Navajo Nation Council shall select and confirm a Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council as the first order of business at the Council session scheduled for the fourth Monday in January of any odd numbered year. 2 N.N.C. § 282(C).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council has the authority to promulgate rules, regulations and procedures for the conduct of its meetings and that of its committees. 2 N.N.C. § 102(E).
- D. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(16) "Matters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law enforcement services, and disaster relief services, fire protection services or other direct services required as an entitlement under the Navajo Nation or Federal law, or which directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Such an emergency matter must arise due to the pressing public need for such resolution(s) and must be a matter requiring final action by the Council."

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. There is established the Office of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 281(A).
- B. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall be a member of the Navajo Nation Council in good standing. 2 N.N.C. § 281(B).
- C. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall serve at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council and shall serve for a term of two (2) years. 2 N.N.C. § 282(A)(B).
- D. This legislation is put forth as an emergency legislation pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(16) as the 25th Navajo Nation Council has a statutory mandate to select and confirm its Speaker as the first order of business at the 25th Navajo

Nation Council's Winter Session statutorily scheduled to start on January 23, 2023.

- E. Dangerous and potentially life-threatening winter travel conditions, unreliable internet access, and staff illnesses interfered with the ability to satisfy the five-day posting requirement of 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(7), prior to the start of the Council's Winter Session.
- F. If the 25th Navajo Nation Council does not select and confirm their Speaker on the fourth Monday in January (January 23, 2023), the Council will not be able to take any action to ensure that adequate funding and emergency services are available to support Navajo communities through the projected upcoming winter storms and dangerous conditions.
- G. In light of the above, there is indeed a "pressing public need" for this emergency legislation.

#### SECTION THREE. ADOPTION OF RULES FOR SELECTION OF SPEAKER

- A. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJA-03-11 attached herein as Exhibit A, each Council shall be authorized to select a Speaker pursuant to its own process and procedures or to utilize the process and procedures set forth in Section 3 of CJA-03-11.
- B. For the purposes of selecting its Speaker, the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council hereby adopts the Rules in the Selection of the Speaker set forth in attached Exhibit B.

#### SECTION FOUR. SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION

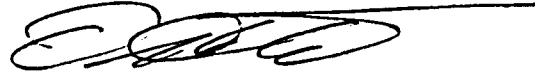
- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby selects the Honorable Crystalyne Curley as Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council, pursuant to its authority under Navajo Nation law, hereby confirms the Honorable Crystalyne Curley to serve as Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council for a two year term with all powers and duties delegated by Navajo Nation law.

#### SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Action and the selection of the Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(C).

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 25<sup>th</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 23 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2023.



Honorable Otto Tso, Speaker Pro Tem  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

01/23/2023  
DATE

Motion: Honorable Shaandiin Parrish  
Second: Honorable Casey Allen Johnson

Speaker Pro Tem Otto Tso not voting



CJA-03-11

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

**22nd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - First Year 2011**

**AN ACTION**

**RELATING TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RESCINDING CJA-1-93 AND CJA-02-99, RESOLUTIONS ADDRESSING THE PROCESS AND PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF THE SPEAKER OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL TO SELECT ITS SPEAKER AND ADOPT A PROCESS AND PROCEDURE ACCORDINGLY**

**BE IT ENACTED:**

**Section 1. Findings and Purpose**

1. The number of delegates to the Navajo Nation Council was reduced from 88 to 24 members by vote of Diné voters.
2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation law, the Navajo Nation Council is authorized to select a speaker from among its membership. The selection of the speaker is an internal process of the Navajo Nation Council.
3. In January 1993, the Navajo Nation Council adopted rules in the selection of Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council. CJA-01-93. These rules were amended in special Session of the Navajo Nation Council in 1999. CJA-02-99 (Document No. 2026).
4. In accordance with Diné tradition, the rules in the selection of the Speaker must be inclusive and allow broader participation by all delegates to the Navajo Nation Council. The process involved in the selection of a Diné leader is done in a democratic manner, with utmost participation by every delegate of the Navajo Nation Council.
5. In order that the requirements of 2 N.N.C. § 282 (C) be met and that the selection and confirmation of the speaker of the Navajo Nation Council be the first order of business at the council session scheduled for the fourth Monday in January of 2011 and this selection be done in a manner consistent with Navajo tradition and the intent of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council.



**Section 2. Rescinding CJA-1-93 and CJA-02-99**

The Navajo Nation Council rescinds CJA-1-93 and CJA-02-99.

**Section 3. Rules in the Selection of the Speaker**

For the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, the Navajo Nation Council hereby adopts the following rules:


1. Each Council of the Navajo Nation shall be authorized to select a Speaker pursuant to its own process.
2. The Speaker shall be selected as the first order of business at the Winter Session of the Navajo Nation Council, January 2011. The Speaker shall be selected and confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council as the first item of business at the council session scheduled for the fourth Monday in January of any odd numbers year, 2 N.N.C. § 282 (C).
3. Read the powers and duties of the speaker, as written in 2 N.N.C. Section 285 into the record.
4. Any delegate may nominate another delegate to serve as Speaker with no second required. If the current Speaker is nominated and accepts the nomination, he/she shall point a Speaker pro tem pursuant to 2 N.N.C. 285(b)(3).
5. The number of nominations shall be unlimited, except upon motion, second and majority vote on closing the nomination process.
6. Each nominee shall accept or reject a nomination upon being nominated.
7. Each nominee, in order of his or her draw, shall be allowed to make a 15-minute statement on his or her platform for Speaker.
8. Each nominee, in the order of his or her draw, shall be allowed to make a 15-minute statement on his or her platform for Speaker.
9. Questions shall not be allowed.

CJA-03-11

10. Upon presentations by nominees, each member of the Navajo Nation Council present shall cast one vote for a candidate by secret ballot. The Navajo Nation Election Administration shall assist in the balloting.
11. In the event there are more than two nominees, there shall be a run-off election between the two candidates receiving the most votes. At which time, the final two candidates will be allowed 5 minute statement before final vote, with no questions or comments. This run-off election procedure shall not apply in the event candidates and is hereby declared the winner.
12. In the event of a tie vote, selection shall be by random lot.
13. The Council shall by resolution confirm its new Speaker

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 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 21 in favor and 2 opposed, this 24th day of January 2011.

  
Jonathan Nez, Pro Tem Speaker  
Navajo Nation Council

01-24-11  
Date

Motion: Charles Damon, II  
Second: Jonathan Hale



For the 25th Navajo Nation Council, the Navajo Nation Council hereby adopts the following rules:

1. Each Council of the Navajo Nation shall be authorized to select a Speaker pursuant to its own process.
2. The Speaker shall be selected as the first order of business at the Winter Session of the Navajo Nation Council, January 2023. The Speaker shall be selected and confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council as the first item of business at the council session scheduled for the fourth Monday in January of any odd numbers year, 2 N.N.C. § 282(C).
3. Read the powers and duties of the speaker, as written in 2 N.N.C. Section 285 into the record.
4. Any delegate may nominate another delegate to serve as Speaker with no second required. If the current Speaker is nominated and accepts the nomination, he/she shall appoint a Speaker Pro-Tem pursuant to 2 N.N.C 285(b)(3).
5. The number of nominations shall be unlimited, except upon motion, second and majority vote on closing the nomination process.
6. Each nominee shall accept or reject a nomination upon being nominated.
7. Each nominee, in order of his or her draw, shall be allowed to make a 15-minute statement on his or her platform for Speaker. Questions shall not be allowed.
8. Upon presentations by nominees, each member of the Navajo Nation Council present shall cast one vote for a candidate by secret ballot. The Navajo Nation Election Administration shall assist in the balloting.
9. In the event there are more than two nominees, there shall be a run-off election between the two candidates receiving the most votes. At which time, the final two candidates will be allowed 5-minute statement before final vote, with no questions or comments.
10. This run-off election procedure shall not apply in the event one of the top two candidates withdraws. The non-withdrawing candidate shall be declared Speaker.
11. In the event of a tie vote, this process shall be continued until one candidate receives the majority vote.
12. The Council shall by resolution confirms its new Speaker.

# NAVAJO NATION

16

Navajo Nation Council Winter Session

1/23/2023

05:00:25 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation 0002-23: Selecting

PASSED

MOT Parrish, S

and Confirming the Speaker of

SEC Johnson, C

the 25th Navajo Nation Council

Yeas : 23

Nays : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 0

Yea : 23

Arviso, S

Crotty, A

Johnson, C

Simpson, D

Aseret, L

Curley, C

Nez, A

Slater, C

Begay, H

Damon, S

Nez, R

Tolth, G

Begay, N

Daniels, H

Notah, N

Yanito, C

Charles-Newton, E

James, V

Parrish, S

Yazzie, C

Claw, S

Jesus, B

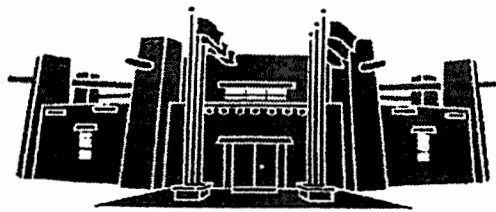
Simonson, G

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

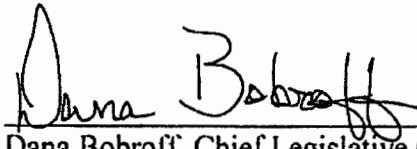
Not Voting : 0

Presiding Speaker: Tso, O



## MEMORANDUM

To : Hon. Eugenia Charles-Newton  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

From :   
Dana Bobroff, Chief Legislative Counsel  
Office of Legislative Counsel

Date : April 7, 2023

Re : **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; REMOVING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup>  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; SELECTING A SPEAKER FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup>  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. The resolution drafted is legally sufficient, although, as with all legislation, challenges are possible in the courts. You are advised and encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction. If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment. As you may be aware, the Speaker is authorized to refer this proposed resolution to other committees than those stated in the title.

If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. Ahéhee'.

OLC No. 23-099-1

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



**LEGISLATION NO: \_0086-23\_**

**SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton**

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Removing the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council; Selecting a Speaker for the 25th Navajo Nation Council**

***Date posted: \_April 21, 2023 at 10:35PM\_***

**Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto: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.: 0086-23**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton**

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Removing the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council; Selecting a Speaker for the 25th Navajo Nation Council**

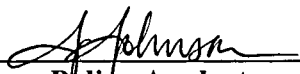
**Posted: April 21, 2023 at 10:35 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: April 26, 2023**

**Digital Comments received:**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Comments Supporting</b> | 1) Jacqueline Jones<br>2) Shannon Platero<br>3) Sarah Charley<br>4) Lene Bitsui<br>5) Orlanthia Henderson<br>6) Violet White<br>7) Anita Benally<br>8) Lavalerie Tsinnajinnie<br>9) Michele Crank<br>10) Monique Adakai<br>11) Gwen Adakai<br>12) Rita Bia<br>13) Camille Livingston<br>14) Benita McKerry<br>15) Refina Willie<br>16) Stefanie Haswood<br>17) James Watchman<br>18) Winnifred Peters<br>19) Geri Cleveland<br>20) Percy Tapaha<br>21) Clara Allen<br>22) Irene L. Begay<br>23) Carol Parker<br>24) Susie Philemon<br>25) Gaile Begaye<br>26) Bertine Spencer<br>27) Ida McVicker<br>28) Wil Joe |
|----------------------------|--|

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
|                                 | 29) Rose Nofchissey<br>30) Cindy Powers   |
| <b>Comments Opposing</b>        | 1) Melissa Becenti<br>2) Earl Tulley<br>3) Lorenda Long<br>4) Cora Phillips<br>5) Marilyn Help-Hood<br>6) Samantha Tsinigine<br>7) Geraldine Begay<br>8) Tammy Yazzie<br>9) Tyrone Nez<br>10) Krista Thompson |
| <b>Comments/Recommendations</b> | 1) Corey Benally<br>2) Dr. Christine Benally<br>3) Leila Help-Tulley<br>4) Rita Capitan<br>5) Mary E. Iyua<br>6) Levon Hatathlic<br>7) Rudy Yellowhair<br>8) Rena Tso<br>9) Amanda Singer<br>10) Marla Billey |



**Policy Analyst**  
**Office of Legislative Services**

**April 27, 2023; 6:30 AM**

**Date/Time**



# Speaker Curley

Moppi JayJay <moppijaj@hotmail.com>

Mon 4/24/2023 9:43 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good morning,

I am in support of the Speaker Curley's removal. Her behavior at times is unprofessional and lacks the experience needed for such a critical role. Doesn't have control of the chamber. The nation doesn't have the time for on the job training for Speaker Curley.

Thank you  
Jacqueline Jones

Life is good! 🍀

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

# Legislation 0086-23 / Comment

Shannon Platero <snow3746@yahoo.com>

Mon 4/24/2023 9:46 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello,

I am in support of this legislation regarding the removal of the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. The 25th Navajo Nation Council is lacking leadership. From Naabikiyati meetings and the 2023 Spring Session alone, it is evident that the inexperience of the Speaker is impacting the proceedings of the meetings and there is no control in the chambers. Where is the respect for ALL Delegates? For example, Delegate Slater was yelling in the chambers during Spring Session and the Speaker did not address it. The Speaker's office is also lacking transparency. After 100 days, the Speaker is still lacking knowledge of laws and basic floor rules. All of these reasons are potentially not furthering the work of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo people.

Shannon Platero  
Registered Voter at Nageezi Chapter

## **Legislation 0086-23**

An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Removing the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council; Selecting a Speaker for the 25th Navajo Nation Council

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# NN Speaker Revoval L0086-23

Sarah Charley <scharley62@yahoo.com>

Mon 4/24/2023 2:35 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello. I am in agreement to remove the current NN Speaker Crystal's Curley after watching the NN Council session. She did not maintain order and appeared to not know her responsibilities including the policy, rules, and procedures. I also suggest to make a change that the speaker must have experience as a delegate for at least 1 term before nominated for NN Speaker. Platforms of speaker nominees should be made know when they accept to be a candidate. Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

# 0086-23 Supporting comment

Lene Bitsui <lenebitsui@gmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 12:01 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Yá'át'ééh,

My name is Lene Bitsui, I am an Enrolled Member of the Navajo Nation & a Registered Voter with the community of Kayenta.

We as Diné are Employers to each Navajo Elected Official.

Speaker Crystalyn Curley has been in office 100+ Days. Reasons why I support her Removal:

- Transparency. There's none. Committee meetings, Special Meetings & Work Sessions should all be streamed online, not just Naabik'iyati or Council.
- An alledged Secret Meeting was held without the Publics knowledge March 12th, a Sunday. Why would Speaker allow this if true? What is being hidden from the Diné?
- Spring Session from April 17th to the 21st was an embarrassment to our Navajo Tribe. To be specific, Day 4 & 5.
- There was laughter seen on Council Floor when 3 Points of Orders were called.
- Speaker was interrupted by Delegates during the Session by walking right up to her podium, therefore distracting her.
- Speaker did not bring Council to order when there was shouting across Council Chambers.
- Speaker has shown biases towards certain Delegates by choosing to recognize their motions over others. Case in point, the Cease Debate motion by Delegate Johnson ended up in a 2 hour debate if it should be recognized. Then Delegate Simpson chiming in that Speaker doesn't have to recognize a Challenge or other Points of Orders being called out.
- Speaker did not reprimand Chief Legislative Counsel Dana Bobroff when she blatantly threw her hands up in the air when Delegate Vince James Challenged her interpretation of the Council Rules (go to Day 4 April 20th on YouTube at hour 9 and 17mins).
- 🔑 As an Employer via being a Registered Navajo Voter & Enrolled Navajo Citizen. Delegate Crystalyn Curley has been Speaker for more then 90 Days. She has yet to address transparency issues & secret Council meetings that were held. Speaker Curley has had ample time to learn her role as Speaker. To ask questions & advice from seasoned Delegates on how to perform her job. Communication is Non-existent. We are 400,000+ Strong and we do not have time to wait for ANY Speaker who does not show an effort in progressing forward and prioritizing our People First. Elder, Veteran's etc., do not have 100 more days to 'wait' for our 25th Navajo Nation Council to work together, to work with each other and to fight together to make change happen.

These Council Meetings have become petty & childish and embarrassing to our entire Navajo Tribe. Each Delegate has a responsibility to put our People First and not align alliances with one another to further personal agendas. Where is the Hózhó? Where is the K'é?

Thank you,

-Lene Bitsui

[lenebitsui@gmail.com](mailto:lenebitsui@gmail.com)

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# NN Council Legislation 0086-23

O. Henderson <yahzzy@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 12:27 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Dear Sir and Madame Council Members:

I am writing in support of Legislation 0086-23, an Action to remove the current Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council (Crystalyn Curley). I am supporting this legislation purely due to her inexperience and low job performance. In order to operate efficiently and to keep the transition from one administration to the next successful with little disruption; a Speaker that is educated and experienced is necessary and very important. I have also observed the lack of transparency in her leadership as the Speaker and as a registered Tribal Member, this does not go unnoticed. I hope that you take my recommendation to thought and vote to remove Ms. Curley from her Speaker position. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Orlanthia Henderson

Tucson, AZ

(Hometown: Sanders-Lupton, AZ)

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# Speaker of the house

Violet White <vidawhite44@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 1:30 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am in support of removing the current Speaker of the House. Mrs. Curley does not represent the Diné people. We need transparency and accountability at every level within our Navajo government but she has failed us once again. Mrs. Curley runs on her own agenda. Thank you

Violet White  
Leupp registered voter

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# Legislation 0086-23

A Haspah Benally <ad\_benally@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 2:40 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

## REMOVE 25TH NAVAJO NATION SPEAKER CRYSTALYN CURLEY

Name: Anita Benally  
Position: Member of Navajo Nation Tribe  
Address: Thoreau, NM 87323  
Chapter: Thoreau

Legislation 0086-23

## REMOVAL OF NAVAJO NATION SPEAKER CRYSTALYN CURLEY, NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL DELEGATE

I support this Legislation 0086-23. I have listened to the Navajo Nation Council meetings when it is available on zoom. Each and every time the Navajo Nation Council meeting is in disarray, due to lack of control, and no leadership from the current Navajo Nation Speaker. The Speaker Madame Curley is incompetent to fulfill her role and responsibility as a Navajo Nation Speaker. There is absolutely no transparency with all the meetings which created distance from communicating with her colleagues and sharing meeting information to the Navajo Nation enrolled members. There is no evidence of Team work according to how the Speaker conducts herself withholding important meeting/Agenda items that are discussed and no professional positive feedback on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

Madame Speaker Crystalyn Curley is a newbie, not familiar with her role as a Speaker. There is her hyper-emotionality diminished connection with her colleagues and favors certain Delegates whom approach her inappropriately during the meetings which causes a distraction. This creates skepticism that erodes trust among her colleagues. Her response is reluctant to stand up furthermore lacks knowledge about conforming in the best interest as the Speaker of the largest Tribe. Her lack of leadership is distinguished by its destructiveness that hinders the future of the Navajo Nation.

**SOLUTION: MADAME SPEAKER CRYSTALYN CURLEY SHOULD VOLUNTARILY STEP DOWN TO SAVE HER DIGNITY OR BE REMOVE AS A SPEAKER IMMEDIATELY.**

**REPLACEMENT: APPOINTMENT OR ELECT VINCE JAMES TO BE THE NEXT NAVAJO NATION SPEAKER. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER OATH.**

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# Legislation 0086-23

Lavalerie Tsinnajinnie <Itsinnajinnie@gmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 3:52 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Lavalerie Tsinnajinnie. I am a voting member of the Gap/Bodaway Chapter.

I am writing to voice my opinion on proposed legislation 0086-23, an action to remove Speaker Crystalline Curley and I hope my voice is heard by the 25th Navajo Nation Council and by my delegate, Ms. Helena Nez-Begay.

For approximately the last 2 years, I have been watching and listening to Council meetings, and listening to the committee meetings because there were many channels to watch. Speaker Damon allowed the streaming of Council sessions and I felt that that was a great way to show transparency. Transparency creates a sort of trust in the people I help get into office.

On the campaign trail, every politician stated being transparent was something they would do. Currently, I feel there is little to no transparency. No council sessions are being streamed like before, I don't see any communication from the Speaker regarding this issue.

Furthermore, a requirement for the Speaker is to lead our Council Delegates. From what I have seen so far in the few meetings that have been streamed, Speaker Curley lacks the leadership as evidenced by the lack of control during the Spring Session. There seems to be a divide and the Speaker is allowing that divide to fester.

Lastly, the Speaker has little to no communication with the public, and it seems she does not communicate with the Council either. This is not a person I want in one of the highest positions in the NN Government.

While Speaker Curley does speak Navajo well enough, her lack of knowledge in NN laws/policies/rules and immaturity are not qualities we need to lead our policy makers.

I am supporting Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton, please listen to your constituents and remove Speaker Curley.

Thank you,  
Lavalerie Tsinnajinnie

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# Email submission of comment to Legislation 0086-23

MCrank <nishoni@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 3:52 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good afternoon Honorable 25th Navajo Nation Council,

First thank you for giving us the ability to voice concerns on this legislation.

I am a voting member from the Cameron Chapter of the Western Agency. I have not ever voiced concerns on legislations in the past as my voice was carried by simply placing a call to my council delegate and through other delegates whom I have had great working relationships with, this is not the case currently. Creating a simple form with simple yes or no responses would help your constituents to comment more on legislations coming before you. This process of emailing comments and writing most of our concerned members can not complete. (A recommendation)

I support Honorable Council Delegate Eugenia Charles Newton on this legislation and would encourage my Delegate Casey Johnson to also support the removal of current Speaker Crystalyne Curley. Here are my reasons:

Our Navajo Nation and it's representatives are consistently be watched by the Federal Government, State, county, local and other Tribal Nations. The Speaker of our Nation has to be knowledgeable in not just our laws and what governs our Nation but the aforementioned other government laws and regulations. This is to protect our Nations peoples, assets and sovereignty. Given Speakers lack of knowledge, maturity and skill set our Nation and its people could suffer additional hardships if she can not even govern her own legislative affairs within her own community let alone the legislative branch and National governmental affairs.

We need a speaker that will control our legislative meetings, address real concerns that legislators present and govern with authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Crank

Cameron Chapter, Western Agency

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# Legislation #: 0086-23 Comment in support of removing the Speaker

Monique Adakai <adakaimonique@gmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 3:53 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To whom it may concern:

I am a concerned Navajo Nation member and constituent. I am from Big Mountain, Arizona, which is part of Hardrock Chapter. Additionally, I am a young (i.e., millennial) and relatively new Navajo Nation voter, who has my people's best interest at heart.

I am writing a comment to state my support to remove the current Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. This position is a vitally important role in Navajo Nation governing, and it is currently occupied by an individual that is unable to effectively carry out its duties. My two main issues with how the current Speaker carries out her roles and responsibilities are as follows: 1. Lack of transparency. Based on my understanding, the Speaker has some role in determining how aspects of Council function. One of these being: livestreaming Council meetings on facebook or youtube. Livestreamed meetings were an important service, but they are now for the most part unavailable on facebook and inconsistently available on youtube. By decreasing availability and access to Council meetings, it becomes increasingly more difficult for constituents to stay informed and to form opinions about what was going on in Council. Especially for those of us that live away from the Navajo Nation for work or school, but still really care about what is going on because we have elderly relatives that still live back home, and do stand to be impacted by the work done by the Navajo Nation Council. We want to be informed and to understand how resources were received and allocated and distributed and why. And to for once, keep elected officials accountable for their decisions, to ask them questions and to engage with them when we agree and disagree because many of the issues the Navajo Nation faces are *important and serious* and require real work to understand and address and to make better. Thus, by not having livestreamed meetings available, and continually being met with excuses from the current Speaker's office as to why this is the current working situation, with no attempts made to correct it, it really makes one wonder where transparency went because to some degree it did exist under other/former Speaker's leadership as they were comfortable having Council meetings available to the public on multiple platforms. 2. Lack of leadership qualities and abilities. Leadership is not easy. It requires self-awareness and the ability to self-reflect and self-correct. Lastly, leadership is work. These are all things the current Speaker needs to work on, but unfortunately the 25th Navajo Nation Council and the public do not have the time to spare for this character development to happen. The Speaker is about 3 months into her tenure, yet she is unable to command the Council floor and to maintain order among all the Council delegates. This is probably attributed to being new to the role, new to Council and not fully understanding or grasping all the rules and procedures that make Council proceedings move. This has been made apparent during many of the meetings that I have observed where they have run long, often going on for hours and hours, with no resolutions or outcomes on legislation, and with debate dragging on and Council Delegates disagreeing amongst one another, challenging legislative rules/procedures and Council lawyers, etc. It's not a great look when no one is able to step in, to right the ship and to get things back on track. I think that is where the procedures and rules come in, but unfortunately the current Speaker seems unsure and as such oftentimes kinda steps back and lets things descend into a kind of chaos before someone comes in to tell her how to get things back on track. Overall, by continuing to operate in this manner, it is counterproductive for the Council and it will limit the work that can and needs to be accomplished for the Navajo Nation and its people. That all being said, I think the Speaker should be removed and replaced with another Council Delegate that can be more effective.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Monique

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# Legislation Number 0086-23: Support for Speaker Removal Comment

Gwen Adakai <gwen\_adakai@hotmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 3:53 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am emailing in support of legislation to remove the current Speaker of the Navajo Nation, Crystalyne Curley. I am from the community of Big Mountain, a registered voter from Hardrock Chapter, and a concerned, enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.

Reasons why I believe Speaker Curley should be removed are as follows: 1. She lacks the verbal and critical thinking skills necessary to be a civil, yet aggressive advocate and leader at the National and local level. Having observed meetings where she has spoken, it is unclear where she stands on issues and what her actual opinion is; therefore, it is difficult to understand what her plan is for the Navajo Nation and how she sets out to accomplish the Council's goals. 2. She also lacks leadership skills to run the Navajo Nation Council. As she is constantly asking the legislative council for assistance. Due to constantly requesting assistance from the legislative council, it's evident she lacks the knowledge and skills of the Speaker position. 3. There is no transparency. As a registered voter, I want the option to listen to the meetings using social media because that is how I was able to stay informed. This service was made available as a result of the pandemic, and it has proven to be a popular means of staying informed, and it was a way for constituents to hold their elected officials accountable. Currently, this option is no longer available, and when access to Council meetings is made available through alternative mechanisms, often these other platforms carrying the meetings will have technical difficulties that go unaddressed resulting in low to no volume so that meeting proceedings cannot be heard, among other problems. Overall, Speaker Curley does not belong in the speaker position.

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# An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Removing the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council; Selecting a Speaker for the 25th Navajo Nation Council

Rita Bia <rbia33@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 3:53 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am Rita Bia, voter of Sawmill Chapter. I am in support of Legislation NO: 0086-23. Reasons being, I am not seeing her being transparent especially not live streaming meetings on social media, like she has stated in her report. In the 2023 Navajo Nation Spring Session she could not maintain order amongst her Council Delegates, I believe she was overwhelmed and still needs more training as a Speaker and needs to be more knowledgeable of our Diné Fundamental Law and Diné Government, for us, the Diné Nation.

Thank you for listening to my concerns,  
Rita Bia  
rbia33@yahoo.com

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# Legislation 0086-23 Removal of The Speaker

Camille Livingston <camillelivingston01@gmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 3:53 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Evening,

It is with great sadness that I write my comments regarding the legislation to remove the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council. As a registered voter, I strongly support the legislation. I have given her an opportunity to improve her team work skills and to listen to the people she works for (The Navajo Nation), but thus far, I'm not seeing proactive approach to listen to the voters and her colleagues. I voted for change (change for the better) but it's not happening within the Legislative Component, I was happy they had voted a female to fill the capacity of the speaker position, but that quickly changed. I want transparency (FB livestream) but the important people (Navajo Nation citizens) are getting no information at all, terrible! And I pray for strong team work among the delegates, but she does not convey that attitude for being in such an important leadership position, very disappointing! Please remove her immediately so that a more qualified individual may oversee the very important Legislative Branch. As a result, she may watch and learn from appropriate leaders, as to what being a true leader is for the people of the Navajo Nation, especially us voting citizens.

Respectfully,  
Camille Livingston

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# Legislation 0086-23

Benita McKerry <bmckerry@gmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 3:53 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Dear Sir/Madame:

I am a registered voters with Dennehotso Chapter and support Legislation 0986-23 for the removal of the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

Being a representative for the Diné people is imperative that one should portray transparency, leadership, and willingness to work with ALL Council Delegates. As in all jobs, one should also have prior work experience to fill the position.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated!

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# In support of 0086-23

Refina Willie <hozhoni21@gmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 3:55 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am in support of this legislation. Enough months have gone by for the current speaker, Ms. Curley, to learn and become familiar with the role and responsibilities of a Speaker. As a citizen of the Navajo Nation, I am greatly concerned of the lack of leadership skills and transparency. Multiple events have occurred which lead to question whether Ms. Curley is qualified for this position - council meetings, and other meetings, were not shown in various online platforms to provide transparency to all Navajo citizens, council meetings are being allowed to run amuck with no professionalism or conduct, no communication with delegates, etc. Please elect a new Speaker that will lead our council to provide the best for our Navajo people.

Refina

Navajo Nation citizen

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# Legislation 0086-23

Stefanie Haswood <stefanie86045@gmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 6:13 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Evening,

As a Navajo Nation registered voter, as well as a full time resident in Tuba City, AZ, I fully support the removal of Navajo Nation Speaker Chrystallyne Curley.

For one, I am an avid listener in all Navajo Nation Committee meetings, as well as a listener in Navajo Nation Council, and my opinion is that Chrystallyne Curley lacks the experience to be Navajo Nation Speaker. Her meetings are poorly run, with no control, and as a listener, very confusing. With constant reassurance and guidance from Legislative Council, I can't help but wonder who officially runs the meeting?: Legislative Council or Chrystallyne Curley.

My thoughts are that Chrystallyne Curley will be more effective as a Council Delegate who advocates for her community issue, rather than sit as Speaker. As a Council Delegate in Chambers, she will be able to participate and observe how meetings are suppose to be held.

It is 2023, and as a registered voter I really would like to see the Navajo Nation Government push forward and reflect true leadership, and that begins with electing a experienced Navajo Nation Speaker, and right now that is not Chrystallyne Curley.

If there are any questions or concerns with this submission, I can be reached via email.

Respectfully,

Stefanie Haswood

Registered Voter & resident of Tuba City, AZ.

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# Legislation 008623

James Watchman <jwatchmanjr@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 6:38 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Dear Navajo Nation government,

I support Legislation 008623. Reason are lack of experience. We need a council delegate who has 4 years or more to be the speaker.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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0086-23

Winnifred Peters <winnifredpeters@outlook.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:24 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc: winifredpeters@yahoo.com <winifredpeters@yahoo.com>;

There is always room for improvement in any organization such as the Navajo Nation Council. I was appalled and disappointed on how the council session was conducted on Friday, April 20, 2023. It was disorganized and Speaker of the Council, Crystalene Curley, failed to keep order while one council delegate talked off and on for five hours but at the end, the council delegates voted and did not meet the quorum. This I saw as a waste of time in trying to convince other delegates to go along with his recommendation of selecting one the delegates to serve as a commissioner of Navajo Hopi Land Commission in his Agency.

I am in favor of selecting another individual to be the new Speaker of the Council for the following reasons:

- a. Speaker Curley shows favoritism with mostly the new delegates by allowing them to control her instead of her putting herself in authority without looking like she is rooting for her friends.
- b. When you are in authority, you have no friends within the organization and your friends are from outside the organization, so this has created a problem for her in dealing with her delegates.
- c. Speaker Curley needs to put on her authority hat and deal with the council delegates by enforcing the rules, laws, and policies stated for the council. She needs to familiarize herself with all the rules, laws, and policies pertaining to her as a speaker and put her foot down and not let the meeting get out of hand like it did on April 20, 2023.
- d. One positive note is that Speaker Curley speaks and understands Dine Bizaad very well so she does not need an interpreter to translate for her. This is a plus for her but there are other capable delegates who speak, understand and even write the Dine Bizaad and hope one of these will be considered for speaker of the council.
- e. I like to see those who have experience in being Speaker pro temp from the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council rather incoming delegates since they have a lot to learn from these experienced pro temps like Eugenia Charles-Newton and Seth Damon. I saw favoritism when a new delegate is chosen to act as Speaker Pro Temp when there are others who can do the job as well from the previous council.
- f. Speaker Curley has suspended all live meetings for the committees when we requested that these continue with this 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Navajon Council but our continued requests have not been considered. I sense the new delegates are wanting their way and Speaker Curley is listening to them and not listening or accommodating those who voted for her and them.
- g. I would love to hear updates from Honorable Delegate, Eugenia Charles-Newton which I feel like the Speaker has ceased this, too. I request that she be reinstated to share information with us. What happened to the freedom of speech and do believe that she is being deprived from sharing update information with all constituents.
- h. Last, but not least, Speaker Curley is a new delegate and needs to learn a lot from the seasoned council delegates like Vince James, Eugenia Charles-Newton, and even Dr. Andy Nez. These three council delegates strive at every session to bring concerns for all our people and works in the best interest of all us.

I believe I gave my explanation on what I saw during the chaotic meeting, shared my opinion on being authority when dealing with subordinates and reasons for removing Speaker Curley and appoint another delegate for the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Counsel.

# Remove the Speaker

Geri Cleveland <gericleveland@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:24 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I support the removal of Crystalyn Curley as Speaker. We don't need someone who works against us. WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

# Removal of Chistine Curley as Speaker

Percy Tapaha <tapahapercy@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:27 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Yes, I agree to REMOVE Christine Curley as Speaker of the House on all four accounts

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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0086-23

Clara Allen <clara011058@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 12:03 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Morning! I am in support of removing Speaker Crystalline Curley due to the incompetence shown throughout the 25th NN Council Delegate Meetings that I observed online.

There has to be someone knowledgeable to maintain order throughout the meetings instead of perpetuating the unprofessional decorum displayed in the council meeting.

Respectfully, Clara Allen

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# Comment on legislation 0086-23 removal of NN speaker

Ilene Begay <casidog21@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 3:27 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I support the removal of Crystalyn Curley. Why?

1. She allows certain council members to bully the guest. Fact: Review the Spring session 2023 of how Shawnevan Dale is the target of negative remarks by council.
2. She is not for the people as she turned off all the social media meetings that us elders used to watch our leaders decide on our tribe's future. Fact: January 20, 2023 is the last social media event. She does not explain her reasons to us voters.
3. Crystalyn Curley divided the council with her attention and support to only a select few. FACT: She does not attend Morthern Agency event.
4. Crystalyn Curley is not mature for this role. She has no idea that her errors causes unnecessary stress and conflict of the council. Fact: Spring Session where she had several motions, point of order, and confusion of her meeting process.

Irene L. Begay

Teec Nos Pos, Az 86514

Chapter: Tolikan Chapter


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# Legislation 0086-23 sponsored by Eugenia Charles-Newton

Carol Parker <crparker1954@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 3:27 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Speaker Crystalene Curley  was already given guidance n chances. She is immature in controlling the council meeting and no professionalism , inappropriate behavior by chuckling when she makes mistake during Council meetings. These facts I observed off live-streaming when I watch the council meetings. Therefore I recommend for removal of Speaker Curley under legislation sponsored by Ms Honorable Eugenia Charles Newton. I strongly support the legislation as a register voter. Sent from my iPhone

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0086-23

sue.philemon@yahoo.com

Wed 4/26/2023 3:27 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I agree to remove the current Speaker of the 25th NNC. Crystalyne Curley has a lack of leadership & no knowledge of controlling the meeting. It was embarrassing to watch the NNC session on April 20, 2023, regarding the appointment of a representative to serve on the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission for Chilchibeto Chapter area.

Please remove her immediately. **Do not pick Otto Tso.**

Susie Philemon  
Aneth Chapter

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# Comments of Legislation 0086-23

gaile begaye <gailejb@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 3:27 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I support Legislation 0086-23 to remove Crystalyn Curley Navajo Nation Speaker.

1. Crystal's Curley is incompetent for this role. She lacks experience to meet the demands of this role. She spent 2 hours for Spring session for her poor decision making skills. She does not guide the direction of the meeting or fails to react to the negative behaviors of certain council members. A review of the 2023 Springs session zoom meeting clearly shows her incompetence.
2. She does not harness a positive energy and team dynamics of her team of council. She does not attend meetings except for circle of select council members. No bulletin or posting of her attending a meeting in the Four Corners.
3. She does not communicate with her council to share her plan. Again, she creates confusion, questions, division, unnecessary stress, and allows assumptions of what she stand for as she lacks leadership quality of communication to her group of council delegates and her registered voters.
4. Crystalyn Curley needs experience and development. A recommendation is for her to reconsider in 2 years after she trains and applies her skills of participating in a leadership meeting.
5. Yes she is educated but her incompetence of skills does not meet the Speaker role at this time.

Gaile Begaye

Teec Nos Pos, Arizona 86514  
Chapter: Tolikan Sweetwater Chapter

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0086-23

Bertine Spencer <bertineb01@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 4:27 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good afternoon. I'm a registered voter with the Chinle Chapter. I agree with removing Crystalyn Curley as a Speaker. She needs to be removed immediately. Obviously she's not helping the Tribe. She's not transparent and she's not allowing us to be part of the meetings via social medias. That just goes to show that she's not willing to help the Dine' Tribe and that is very unprofessional. We need someone as a Speaker who will help the Dine' Tribe who will communicate with the Counsel Delegates and us who she's suppose to serve. Communication is of utmost important to get a job done. Crystalyn needs to be removed immediately.

Thank you,

Bertine

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# Legislation 0086-23

Ida McVicker <ida.mcvicker@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:01 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc: Gmail <ida.mcvicker@gmail.com>;

The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council is the highest-ranking member of the Navajo Nation's Legislative Branch. The Speaker represents the people of the Navajo Nation, she is the voice of our people. To be a successful Speaker, it is critical that she is consistent in her actions, speech, and representation. This position holds the trust of many people in her hands, it is crucial that she treats the position with a sensitive approach, knowing her actions reflect on a nation of her own people, and without doubt, maintain professionalism throughout her term, in every aspect of her life, both professionally and personally.

Crystalyne Curley was recently elected as the 25<sup>th</sup> Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, making her the first woman to hold the position. A historic time representing Navajo women, but most importantly, the Navajo people. There is no doubt that Ms. Curley is intelligent, she is highly educated, holding a master's degree and two bachelor's degrees. It is assumed that a person with a strong academic background would have strong skills in communication, collaboration, and professionalism, something that education instills in a student.

When a person is hired for a position, they are unfamiliar with the duties and responsibilities and must acquire. In most cases, the individual takes the initiative to master the job. They gain knowledge and assistance from current employees to aid in their success, which in this case, the re-elected delegates. When a person is unsure of something, they typically seek assistance. There should be no shame when asking for help. In fact, that is what we ask of our People, to ask for help when needed. That is the nature of existence; we live and learn to thrive. The Speaker should have initiated contact immediately with the delegates for assistance. Instead, Ms. Curley chose to be unapproachable, uncooperative, non-team player and to simply state it, ignorant. This has created what I believe to be the worst-case scenario to happen, a divide between the delegates and the people of the Navajo Nation.

In the work environment, this behavior is frowned upon. Either you are a team member, or you are not. You may be terminated due to the disorder you cause. I am unaware of her employment history and if she has been employed outside the reservation. Her actions have disrupted the council with juvenile games. It is quite evident that the Speaker shows favoritism, another frowned upon behavior in the work environment. She has formed her own entourage with whom she consults and receives direction. As a woman in the highest position in the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation, she must be her own person, make her own decisions, be impartial, and always make sound decisions with the Navajo people in mind.

During her campaign for the position of delegate, Ms. Curley talked about transparency. In contrast, she eliminated social media from all meetings, leaving the Navajo people no visibility with what is being said or actions that are being performed. Some delegates have permitted connectivity at their meetings, others have not. There needs to be uniformity throughout. The Navajo people have the right to be present (via social media) at all meetings of our nation's government. We have the right to know what is being discussed and what decisions are being made.

The question remains, is this the behavior and lack of transparency that should be the voice of our people? Who is going to hold Ms. Curley accountable for her actions? We cannot count on her to be the voice of our People.

I recommend that Crystalyne Curley be removed from her position as Speaker of the Navajo Nation.

I am a registered voter of the Chinle Chapter.

Thank you.

Ida McVicker

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0086-23

wiljoe54@yahoo.com

Wed 4/26/2023 9:01 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good afternoon. I'm a registered voter with the Chichiltah Chapter. I agree with removing Crystalyn Curley as a Speaker. She needs to be removed immediately. She's not helping the Dine' Tribe who she's suppose to serve. She's not transparent. She has betrayed us by closing all social media access to the Navajo Nation Counsel Delegate meetings. That just goes to show that she's not willing to help the Dine' Tribe which is very sad and unprofessional. We don't need to waste more time waiting for her to speak up. She's not a child but unfortunately she's in that capacity to be told to respond to emails and to perform her job efficiently. She doesn't need to be told to do her job, period! We need a Speaker who will help the Dine' Tribe who will communicate with the Counsel Delegates and us who she's suppose to serve. She's suppose to work for us but she has done the oppose by closing the doors in our faces. She has double crossed us. She's a traitor. Communication is of utmost important to get a job done. Crystalyn Curley needs to be removed without delay!

Thank you,

Wil

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# Legislation 0086-23

Rose Nofchissey <rose.nofchissey@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:22 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Please vote to REMOVE the present Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council due to her non-responses to constituents calling for her to live-video all Council meetings. We voters also see that she's not effective in her communication to her colleagues, her constituents and the voters. We see that she doesn't know what she is doing in terms of providing guidance to the legislative council. We observed that there are more new Council delegates that need guidance in providing services to us voters. We expect more from you as leaders. We voted you into provide effective services to us. Thank you for listening to me.

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# Legislation 086-23

Cindy Powers <powerscindy22@gmail.com>

Thu 4/27/2023 6:26 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cindy Powers  
Tonalea Chapter

Legislation 086-23

I agree that current Madame Speaker Crystalyn Curley of the NN be removed.

I believe that the gravity of a NN Speaker role and responsibilities are significant that a newly elected individual who serves in this capacity possess characteristics of boldness, balanced and fully prepared with objective directives of the NNC. Madame Speaker Curley is a junior delegate who has yet to fully, clearly, and with transparency expressed her goals for the current 25th NNC. Unfortunately, Ms. Curley appears to lack transparency, lack communication and show biased behavior with certain 25th Council Delegates. It appears as though this position is not taken seriously and has forgotten she works on behalf on the Dineh people on the Navajo Nation and across the globe where enrolled members reside and work. This position is not a popularity position based off who you know. Madame Curley is yet to address her position regarding a previous legislative staff member sexual harassment misconduct. This month is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and across Indian countries throughout the US, sexual violence in Native communities is 10times higher than the National average, and yet Madame Curley remain silent. When does our leader who represents us at the local, counties, states, federal level sits on the sideline and appear to condone harm to another tribal member. Sexual harassment is a crime that we as a Nation cannot tolerate any longer. Madame Curley's silent speak volumes to the NN of what she allows and permits as a lawmaker/policy maker. There are countless Dineh men, women, boys, and girls who remain silent due to victim blaming/ shaming. With Madame Curley deafing silence on sexual violence and sexual harassment would suggest an invitation to bring harm to the Dineh people. Navajo Nation has to boldly lead when it comes to this violent crime by taking a stand for justice.

I recommend Honorable Delegates:

Dr. Andy Nez

Eugenia Charles Newton

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# Oppose Legislation 0086-23

Jane Doe <jdoe3214567@gmail.com>

Mon 4/24/2023 11:39 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Council Delegates,

As a Navajo woman this legislation sets a bad example for our young ladies. This is a historic time in our government when we have 9 proud women on this council. Only three months into the term we see this legislation introduced to remove 1 of those women from her position of leadership. As ladies who are elected to serve the people, you all should be supporting one another. It's bad enough that women face sexism and other problems in society and workplaces. We shouldn't be working to bring each other down, especially as Navajo women. Delegates, vote against this legislation and start working together. Don't be an embarrassment to our people, other tribes, and the feds. Stand together and not against each other.

Melissa Becenti

Enrolled member of the Navajo Nation

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# Leg 0086-23

Earl Tulley <tohlakai00.et@gmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 9:41 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Yaateeth 25th Navajo Nation Council,

I am not too smart but I know a lot of smart people who taught me how to make a decision; study the issue, consider options, look at pros & cons, then make a choice.

Then press ahead with heart, mind and soul. In due time, not our time, all will work out.

Honorable Delegates lean into prayers which you offer for one another. Certainly, Navajo families are sending prayers with strong wings on behalf of Navajo Nations Three Branch Government(s).

Naas Goo does not mean backwards, there is no reverse gears to consider like Legislation 0086-23, so vote rojo, laachee, red.

Honorable Delegates if you want leadership change then consider combining the Executive and Legislative Branch, dust off Office of the Chair of Navajo Nation Council.

Speaker Curley is capable and deserves our support and prayers.

Honorable Delegates give your Speaker Vote a chance to work, out of 400,000 plus Navajos, 24 were selected for Tribal Council-ship role. Say what you mean and mean what you say with every vote you make.

Honorable Delegates, you are the corn pollen of yesterdays prayers, many faithful eyes casted in your direction - daily.

Someone smart told me, people with horse sense are smart and practical and could be counted on to make a good decision.

Ooa, whoa to Legislation 0086-23, and giddy-up others bills to advance Navajo Nation.

Honorable Delegates, you are burning day light - naas goo.

Ahehee,

Earl Tulley, Voter Tachee/Blue Gap Chapter, Central Agency.

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# Legislation 0086-23

Lorenda Long <llong\_49@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 5:02 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Yaahteeh Shinataanis;

I am voicing my thoughts on the above mentioned legislation entered by Eugenia Charles Newton.

As an older, educated, compassionate Diné woman, I am very disturbed, distressed and disappointed in this attempt to remove the Speaker of the House for the Navajo Nation.

First and foremost...where are the attributes of our K'é in this attempt to remove a colleague? Just as the educated young man, Buu Nygren, stumbles his way through in his leadership role as our President and many of our people are allowing him to understand and find his way, inasmuch, the Speaker of the House - Honorable Curley should also be supported as she fully understands her role. She is educated, very expressive in our language, knowledgeable of our culture and ceremonies. Furthermore, I am trying hard to understand what the underlying purpose is with this attempt - is it for self promotion? Continued division?

Nonetheless, my words to all of the 25th Navajo Nation Council is DOO'DA. Your actions are of haste, negative intent and inferiority. Work with each other, respect one another as you all represent each one of us that believes in you. As my late mother would have said "that's enough!"

Sincerely,

Lorenda Long  
Registered and voting Diné asdzaa  
Thoreau Chapter

Sent from my iPhone

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# Proposed Removal of the Speaker

Cora Phillips <cmaxx\_phillips05@hotmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:25 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I oppose this. We all carry strength and weaknesses but every person deserves the right to carry out their roles in a dignified way. Madam Speaker hasn't been in the "speakership's position very long. We all deserve the chance to learn. She got voted in because she shows a lot of respect, humility and carries herself with honor. Some of the delegates can't even do that. The power of being a "delegate" can become toxic and stepping all over people with an "I'm all it" attitude which spells out narcissism, a mental health disorder.

Keep Crystalline Curley in her speakership position for she's modest and Carrie's herself with honor.

Sent from my iPhone

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Trying to remove newly elected speaker: Ya'at'eeh t'aa anoltsoh. Shi ei kodoo alts'iisigo ha'oodzii'go binaji' yashti' dooleel. I believe that Our Navajo Speaker need not be removed. Why are people so anxious to declare removal with so many little know...

mhelphood <mhelphood@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 10:53 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Debts. The Speaker needs a fair chance to perform her duties. What happened to our ajooba'? We need to help each other in times like this. Maybe a rough draft with other former Speakers.

Marilyn Help-Hood

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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# Vote No on Legislation 0086-23

Samantha Tsinigine <starwarrior782@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 12:03 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Council Delegates,

I write to remind all of our elected leaders that the people, our grandmas and grandpas took the time on election day to vote for candidates that they believe in. All of you were put into office by the people because many of you said there would be change. This legislation does not reflect change. We've witnessed so many disputes and public internal fighting for decades among those in our government. There are so many issues to address that can help the Navajo people. What would this legislation address besides a fight over power? From the outside looking in, it looks like old politics again. Get to work on legislations that really make a difference in the lives of our people and put aside this nonsense. Delegates, vote against this legislation and get to work on ARPA, homesite leases, and real issues!

Samantha Tsinigine

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# public comment, OPPOSITION to Navajo Nation 25th Council Legislation 23-0086

Geri B <geri\_begay@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 2:15 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc: Steven R. Arviso <steven.arviso@navajo-nsn.gov>; Lomardo C. Aseret <lomardo.aseret@navajo-nsn.gov>; Helena Nez. Begay <helena.begay@navajo-nsn.gov>; Norman M. Begay <norman.begay@navajo-nsn.gov>; Shawna Ann. Claw <shawna.claw@navajo-nsn.gov>; Eugenia Charles-Newton <echarles-newton@navajo-nsn.gov>; Amber K. Crotty <acrotty@navajo-nsn.gov>; Seth Damon <sdamon@navajo-nsn.gov>; Herman Daniels, Jr. <hdaniels@navajo-nsn.gov>; Vince R. James <vincejames@navajo-nsn.gov>; Brenda Jesus <brenda.jesus@navajo-nsn.gov>; Casey Allen. Johnson <casey.johnson@navajo-nsn.gov>; Andy Nez <andy.nez@navajo-nsn.gov>; Rickie Nez <rickienez@navajo-nsn.gov>; Nathan Notah <nathan.notah@navajo-nsn.gov>; Shaandiin Parrish <sp.parrish@navajo-nsn.gov>; Germaine Simonson <germaine.simonson@navajo-nsn.gov>; Danny Simpson <danny.simpson@navajo-nsn.gov>; Carl Slater <carlslater@navajo-nsn.gov>; George H. Tolth <george.tolth@navajo-nsn.gov>; Otto Tso <otso@navajo-nsn.gov>; Curtis Yanito <curtis.yanito@navajo-nsn.gov>; Cherilyn Yazzie <cherilyn.yazzie@navajo-nsn.gov>; carl@cdcarl.com <carl@cdcarl.com>;

Yah ah teeh Navajo Nation 25th Council,

I hope this correspondence finds you all well. I am writing to inform you that I do not support Legislation 23-0086, An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyati' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Removing the Speaker of the 25th Council; Selecting a Speaker for the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

To begin, I do not know Miss Curley personally and have nothing to gain of monetary value or status, no backstage hooligans, no under the table offerings. I have nothing but optimistic respect for Miss Curley.

Current Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Cystralene Curley is an ideal Speaker. I do not understand the rationale on why she is to be removed. Miss Curley's previous earned title as Miss Navajo Nation gives her expertise to continue to represent her people well. She is very accepting of her role and wholeheartedly reaches out to the executive office without hesitation, understanding that the two branches need to be collective in serving the Navajo Nation. Miss Curley understands that she is new to the position that entails a lot of learning to be an effective leader, same with other new elected officials such as President Nygren.

Miss Curley youthful age makes it accommodating to relate to our younger Navajos. She is able to embrace what is trending and be open minded. She uses K'e as a pedestal and strength to reach out to all walks of the Navajo.

Most importantly, she is fluent in the Dine language, which is very rare today. The ability to communicate effectively to our non-English speakers. Nizhoni.

Please vote NO (red) to this legislation when it comes before you.

Ahxehee,

Geraldine Begay  
To'likan Community Member

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# Legislation 0086-23

Tammy Yazzie <0909sunflower@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 6:55 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I oppose this legislation. I hope the 25th NN Council considers keeping Madam Speaker Curley in this position. Why do we fight internally when the fight should be external? I believe there is justification to what is being presented in this legislation. There is work that needs to be done for the Navajo Nation, the concentration should be focussed there. Personally, this looks like an attack on Madam Speaker and looking for every cause to remove her from this position.

I ask the 25th Navajo Nation Council to vote against this legislation and keep Madam Speaker Curley in this position. I have seen her collaboration with the NN President and is making efforts to represent the Legislative Branch in Washington DC and with the States of NM, AZ and Utah.

Please just find some common ground and work together, the people are looking to you for leadership and guidance. If you can't work among yourselves then what does that showcase to our People.

Thank you for your time.

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# Legislation 0086-23

Tyrone Nez <mechanicnez122@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:01 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Don't you all have more important tasks to worry about working against each other? We have a bulk of federal funds sitting in the coffers that need to be used for our communities ASAP. I find 0086-23 to be an embarrassment for the Navajo Nation and all of you! There are news stories out there displaying our Dine women on the Council working to bring each other down.

Where was Delegate Charles Newton when the previous Speaker had issues with alcohol and allegations of crashing a tribal vehicle in Phoenix? She was silent, because he was a man, and our speaker is a woman. There were many social media posts and news stories about misconduct but Delegate Charles Newton sat back and let it happen. She thrives on theatrics that benefit her politically. She may have spoken out against him late in his term but for more than three years she keeps quiet and never introduced legislation to remove him. She is on facebook blasting her own Chapter officials. Shes bound to turn on the rest of the delegates in here. She talks down on President Nygren, and the Speaker so she can cause disharmony among everyone. This has me wondering where she learned her Navajo values.

Less than 2 months into term, Delegate Charles Newton is criticizing the new speaker for every little thing because she is a woman she lost the speakership too. I would hardly call that a loss, since she only had three votes. Those votes are the only delegates she could convince. Good thing the other delegates used their common sense.

I know I am a Navajo man, but just because Speaker Curley is a woman, she is placed under a microscope. We had other speakers who were guilty of stealing money, embarrassing the Navajo people in vegas, and carrying on the Speakers office like a white mans boys club. Now we have one of our Navajo women in there.

Delegate Newton should pull back her legislation and look into the mirror about how she can be a better person. Right now she is attacking the Navajo Nation and people who voted for or delegates to vote for Speaker Curley. She really needs to think about who she judges. Nothing is being accomplished by her pettiness. Nothing is being accomplished in Shiprock, and shes shifting that attention away from herself and lack of leadership she knows is true. This is all a sham to make it look like shes doing something good.

VOTE NO ON THIS LEGISLATION

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0086-23

Krista Thompson <kjthomp4@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:01 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I write this comment as a Navajo woman concerned about the reputation and integrity of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. As of today we have one particular Navajo Nation Council Delegate making waste of legislative services, time, and resources out of spite. This delegate at issue is the sponsoring delegate of legislation 0086-23. The result of her only earning three votes from the Council has truly stung her ego and self-proclaimed reputation, so much that she submitted a drafting request to legislative counsel to deter their attention away from drafting meaningful legislation that could positively impact the Shiprock Chapter, and the remaining 109 Chapters of the Navajo Nation.

Never before has the Navajo Nation had a speaker who is a mother, daughter, sister, niece, masters-degree holding, or former Miss Navajo. These are qualities we are truly lucky to have. Instead of ta

First, the sponsor lists there being a lack of communication with the speaker's staff, however you see pictures of the sponsor in Albuquerque, Washington DC, and Phoenix. If there was a lack of communications, how would her stipends or travel be paid so that she can be in those pictures?

Second, the sponsor states she has not provided her stance on the use of alcohol by the Office of Speaker staff. The Navajo Nation code makes clear that alcohol is not permitted anywhere on the Navajo Nation, with one exception at the Navajo Nation Casinos. The employee travel policy also bars all Navajo Nation staff from consuming alcohol on any kind of work related travel. Where is in the law that makes it a requirement to make such a statement.

Third, the Sponsor is accused of not immediately addressing a so-called safety and re-traumatizing concern related to a sexual harassment allegations against the member of the Office of the Speaker staff. As a law trained individual, the sponsor should know that such a statement would be frivolous and could be detrimental to both victim and accused.

Fourth, the sponsor states the Speaker is inexperienced and has a lack of leadership skills, not furthering the work of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. The Speaker organizes the administration of the council. The Speaker approves travel and stipends for the sponsor, and all other delegates. The Social Media and Speakers communications depicts how our legislators are working with the Speakers officer to push the Nation's goals.

Please vote no on Legislation 0086-23. This legislation is frivolous and amounts to nothing other than a petty attack on the Speaker. Our Navajo Nation Speaker is eloquent in both English and Navajo, she is well educated, caring, hard working, ethical, and faithful person. She is exactly the kind of Speaker we want.

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# RE: REMOVAL OF SPEAKER CRYSTALYN CURLEY

Corey Benally <anothernavajo@gmail.com>

Mon 4/24/2023 11:39 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Morning,

I, Corey Benally, am a survivor of domestic violence and a recovering alcoholic, therefore I no longer support Crystalyn Curley as Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. Also, not allowing the Navajo Nation Council sessions to not be aired over online social networks should be a requirement for safety, time, and travel expenses. And her known inability to have transparency, honesty, and authenticity towards the Navajo People and the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

Humbly,

Corey Benally

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# Legislation 0086-23, Removing Speaker

cyb8 hotmail <cyb8@hotmail.com>

Mon 4/24/2023 7:58 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

April 24, 2023

To: 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Honorable Delegates,

I am commenting on Legislation 0086-23 to remove Speaker Curley sponsored by Delegate Charlies-Newton.

It is disappointing that the issues presented in the legislation should be resolved through mediation, peacemaking, or disciplinary action, not legislation. Such actions reflect on the people.

Delegate Charlies-Newton mentions in her legislation reasons the lack of communication with Council, substance abuse, and sexual harassment in the Speaker's office.

- The two staff members, and any employee or elected person of the Navajo Nation should be sound minded, accountable, and represent with integrity, otherwise, resign or be fired without further delay.
- The sexual harassment should be reported to the police, investigated, and face punitive measures.
- During the campaigns, candidates promoted transparency and public engagement so there should be open communication and discussion. With many forms of median available for correspondences including vocal, emails, documentation, conferencing, phone, etc., there is no excuse for lack of communication.

The Navajo people are mentioned in this legislation as pawns. All Navajo Nation government actions should start with the people, the voters. They deserve proper and professional representation.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Dr. Christine Benally  
Littlewater

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# Comment to Legislation 0086-23

Leila Help-Tulley <leilahelptulley@gmail.com>

Tue 4/25/2023 3:53 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services

It is very important for me as an elderly Navajo female voting citizen to make a comment on Legislation 0086-23.

I want to begin my comment by stating that as an elderly Navajo female citizen I am in support of allowing our young people to take the reins of leadership. Our progenitors have prayed for this moment in time. We have taken time to refine the skills of our young people to become the leaders of today. Our homes are sacred places where their skills have been built upon to assist our great Navajo Nation.

As I have reviewed the four areas cited as a concern, there are no egregious act(s) conducted by Speaker Crystallyne Curley.

I listen to the Navajo Nation Council Sessions live on YouTube and I have personally heard Speaker Curley describe that her staff has consistently sent out meeting information. She also has addressed her staff to make note and follow up on different council delegates requests. Furthermore, a stance on alcohol use need not be addressed due to already existing policies and procedures outlined in the Navajo Nation Personal Policies Manual.

Overall for the Navajo Nation, there is Sexual Harassment Training that was put in place by President Russel Begaye in 2016. On April 14, 2023 this Sexual Harassment Awareness Workplace Policy and Mandatory Training was reaffirmed through Executive Order 03-2023 and Administrative Order No. 34-2033 by President Buu Nygren and JoAnn B. Jayne. When this mandated training was initially established in 2016 I worked as a Staff Development employee who trained all 3 branches of the Navajo Nation government. Then, the Judicial and the Legislative Branches participated voluntarily. The training was mandated for all of the Executive Branch. There is an existing no cost Sexual Harassment Awareness training opportunity that Legislative Branch employees and elected officials can participate in conducted intermittently throughout the year by the Navajo Nation Staff Development and Training Center.

As a past Legislative Staff Assistant, it is my awareness and observation that the role of a Speaker on our Navajo Nation is an on the job training opportunity. There are no classes offered at higher educational institutions on how to become a Speaker on the Navajo Nation Council or classes that teach the skill set needed. Any newly elected Speaker is expected to learn on the job.

In conclusion, it is my observation by watching and listening to the Navajo Nation Council on YouTube that Speaker Crystallyne Curley already creates an environment consistent with Hózhó by being respectful to her colleagues by listening to their concerns, comments and positions. By doing so she is providing an opportunity for the Navajo Nation Council to serve the Navajo People. This allows constituent voices to be heard through their elected official's participation in the Naa'bik'iyati' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council Sessions.

Thoughtfully,

Leila Help-Tulley  
Retired Navajo Nation Employee

# Legislation 0086-23

Rita Capitan <rcapitan@naataanii.org>

Tue 4/25/2023 5:55 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

We have a tremendously huge undertaking assigned to all of us as Chapter Officials, Division Directors, and staff. And, a giant workload for the Council Delegates to process at the present time.

In the midst our NN's heavy load of work to do, why are we bringing up small things regarding communication, alcohol, sexual harassment and blaming incapabilitys on an individual (Speaker) who just started her work less then 4 months ago? Any time a person begins a new position, it is not uncommon to have issues and to go through a learning process. It's normal.

Communication is a problem Navajo Nation wide. We all need to communicate with one another. OPVP, Administration, NN Staff, Chapters..... Especially now as we are swamped with ARPA projects.

Lastly, there are police reports and courts who take care of wrongdoings such as sex harrassment. If a crime was committed, the victim has steps to go by. It is not our business to assume the "jinii". As for alcohol, there are ways and places to get those resolved. It is up to Law Enforcement to do their job if there was a serious problem.

No, I do not think that this is so crucial and against the law and our tradition to be put in a Legislation. Let the Madam Speaker learn, process and become a professional at what she does. Speaker of the Hogan.

Rita Capitan

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# NN PENDING LEGISLATION on 0086-23

mary iyua <gwd\_mom@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:25 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Good afternoon,

As a resident of Navajo Nation / Greasewood Springs, I am writing in regards to the above pending legislation.

It has been my observation that Speaker Crystalyne Curley of the Navajo Nation Council is not able to fulfill this role at this time. I regularly observe council sessions, via YouTube, & do not feel she is able to maintain a professional stance on issues being discussed; she is unable to ensure meetings are conducted properly & to keep it in order; she obviously does not know how to communicate effectively or effectively resolve / remediate disagreements during meetings. I also feel it's been a disservice for her not allow broadcasting of meetings on social media as done in the past. I have heard delegates make multiple requests for training/meeting/discussions on plans & expectations but it does not appear to have happened as there continues to be questions. This shows a lack of communication and disregard for suggestions made by her fellow colleagues. Further, time is wasted as the Council airs their disagreements & frustrations while Madame Speaker allows it. Also of concern is lack of professionalism demonstrated By legislative staff- snickering, having side bar conversations, yawning & not listening to what is going on during session to include legal advocate. Sarcasm doesn't not move our Nation forward. These are staff, I believe are under supervision of the Speaker.

This position is a delicate/sensitive position which requires the utmost professionalism, knowledge & skills as well as some experience. It cannot be on the job training as it involves the lives & livelihoods of the largest tribe in the United States. Current speaker does not seem to possess these traits, especially in observing Spring 2023 session. Current speaker needs to mature, rather than behave like a teenager, as demonstrated in latest council session. She needs to represent the Din'e people positively!!

Note: Current NNC Speaker does appear to have good command of basic Navajo language; it's unknown how well she knows traditions / culture at this time. Her command of the English language is limited (substituting "pacific" for "specific") despite her reported education. I believe she is teachable but needs to mature & be willing to take direction for her to make changes. She needs to learn Robert's Rules of Order as well as the NN Codes & comply with NN Personnel Policy & Procedures. Again, this position requires more than on the job training. Our children and elders are looking up to our NN leadership. Speaker represents the Navajo Nation 24/7! Also note that I was extremely happy when a woman was voted in as Speaker & had great hopes for 25th Council of the NN.

Unfortunately I did not have time to document each concern individually as I just learned of comment period as it comes to a close. Thank you for considering my concerns.

Respectfully,

Mary E Iyua  
gwd\_mom@yahoo.com

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# Speaker support

Levon Hatathlie <levonhat@icloud.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:27 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I support the current speaker Ms Curley. She is an outstanding individual and should remain as speaker

Levon Hatathlie  
Coalmine Mesa chapter member

Sent from my iPhone

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0086-23

rudy poo <rudyyellowhair@hotmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 10:53 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello,  
I'm writing in concern for thr removal of Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalline Curley.

Let Curley continue her role as speaker, mistakes will be made but allow Curley to learn and continue to grow. Education, talent, and hard work will triumph over hiccups any individual holds in life.

It would be a shame to see yet another young, educated, and fresh face addition to our Navajo leadership be run off by our own people.

"Be strong and courageous"

Thank you,  
Rudy Y.

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# Legislation 0086-23 sponsored by Eugenia Charles-Newton

Rena Tso <rena\_tso@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 3:27 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

CD Eugenia Charles-Newton is a phenomenal Leader and makes wise decisions on behalf of the Dine Ppl. I don't consider her as a bully type but very vocal to protect the integrity of Navajo Nation. We are being watched across the world n being the largest tribe and what we're showcasing during CD meetings is an embarrassment and sore-eye for the Dine ppl and other tribes. So I believe this is the right way to help CD Crystalynn Curley by stepping down on her own peacefully as Speaker of Navajo Nation. She needs to gain more knowledge to learn the Roles n Responsibilities as a CD and a Speaker. She has a lot of years ahead to challenge herself to learn about Laws and Government and Federal Regulations. As a registered voter I am hoping for a new matured Speaker that has loyalty fairness equal treatment with colleagues and who will stands for all the Dine ppl not just friends, buddies and certain CDs. I am very disappointed watching the CD meetings disrespecting, out of control and bullying and Speaker had no control of the meeting. She may be very new but that is no excuse for a leader from Day 1 to 100 days in the Office. Registered voter and I stand for a strong and the goodness for the Dine ppl. God bless our Dine Nation 🙏

Sent from my iPhone

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# 0086-23 Speaker of the 25th NN Council

Amanda Singer <asinger\_07@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 3:27 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To whom this may concern,

I am appalled that there are Council Delegates who are attempting to remove Crystalynn Curley from her seat. We voted for change and we received what we asked for. The fact that a young Dine woman is the NN Speaker gives the younger generation Hope and proof of change. Give her a chance and let her put her Master's degree to use.

In every employment position, you have a learning and training grace period. I believe that Speaker Curley should be given this grace period. I think it is crazy that certain individuals want her to create miracles within the 3 months of taking her seat as a Council Delegate and less then 3 months as the Speaker.

The Navajo tribal government is notorious of encouraging our youth to go to school and come home and help our people. Yet when they do, they are treated with disrespect by older colleagues. These older colleagues then accuse the younger, college educated generation that they lack experience and attempt to get them out of their positions. If Speaker Curley is removed it will just prove the community right. It is bad enough that there are so many registered voters who do not vote due to not having trust in the tribal government system. I think this will cause more young ones to step away from voting and lose interest in applying for Navajo government jobs. A lot of the young ones may not be expressing their concerns but they are definitely watching what is going to happen with Speaker Curley.

From what I understand, Delegate Newton-Charles is the lead person in attempting to remove Speaker Curley, stating lack of experience. Well, I think anyone who is voted to become the Speaker begins with lack of experience and they learn as they go. I don't know why it would be different for a young Dine lady.

I hope that Speaker Curley keeps her seat and continues to her work for the Navajo people.

Sincerely,

A concerned constituent

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Marla Billey

Fruitland, NM 87416

April 26, 2023

Navajo Nation Council  
PO Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

**LEGISLATION 0086-23**

I am writing this letter in support of the Honorable Madame Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council Crystalayne Curley.

The four examples presented under Exhibit 1 of the Legislation 0086-23 are vague and taking away time from more important Navajo Nation issues. Example one states "lack of communication" but was it documented, how requests were made or the lack of responses. In my previous experience with the Navajo Nation requests were done in writing, to document the request.

Examples two and three, should be addressed by the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies and Procedures. If this isn't being followed, then it needs to be documented and not just hearsay from outside the workplace.

The last example, "inexperience and lack of leadership skills" is not evident. Madame Speaker Curley was qualified to run for Council Delegate by the Navajo Election Administration. She was elected to her Council Delegate position by a majority vote from the Chapters she represents. Lastly Madame Speaker was chosen by a majority vote of the Navajo Nation Council to be Speaker. Experience nor leadership are not listed as requirements to run for Council delegate nor Speaker of the Council. Madame Speaker Curley does have previous experience, and leadership skills from her time as School Board member and previous employment history.

These are my comments regarding the legislation.

Thank you,



Marla Billey

Former Navajo Nation Regular Employee (Executive & Judicial)  
Former Navajo Nation Political Appointee Employee (Executive)  
Applicant (Legislative)

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

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0086-23**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton**

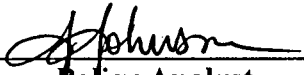
**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Removing the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council; Selecting a Speaker for the 25th Navajo Nation Council**

**Posted: April 21, 2023 at 10:35 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: April 26, 2023**

**Digital Comments received:**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Comments Supporting</b>      | <b>1) Lisa Tsosie<br/>2) Ray Thomas<br/>3) Elise Mix<br/>4) Tilfred T. Benally<br/>5) Irene Jim</b>   |
| <b>Comments Opposing</b>        | <b>1) Keith Yazzie<br/>2) Olivia Carlson<br/>3) Richard Mann, Jr.<br/>4) Edward Dec<br/>5) Winsten Dan<br/>6) Gloria M. Skeet<br/>7) Marjorie Goldtooth<br/>8) Rose Gillis<br/>9) Amanda Singer</b> |
| <b>Comments/Recommendations</b> | <b>1) Joezy Redhouse<br/>2) Wayne Claw<br/>3) Steven Kee<br/>4) Kee Jackson</b>   |

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Policy Analyst  
Office of Legislative Services**

**May 10, 2023; 3:00 PM**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date/Time**

# legislation 0086-23

el tsosie <eltsosie@hotmail.com>

Thu 4/27/2023 11:45 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

My name is Lisa Tsosie and I'm an enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe and enrolled at Dennethotso Chapter.

I'd like to send this message in agreement with this legislation to remove NN CD Chrystalynn Clark as NN Speaker. This is a highly regarded position and should have strict requirements as to have at least a term served as a NN Council member. The Speaker should already know the rules and regulations of how the Council Chambers rules are. Not anyone that's a newly elected Council member because they still need to focus their attention on the chapters they represent. You cannot effectively be learning both roles as a newly elected delegate and speaker of the council.

Transparency also means a lot to me as an enrolled member because it allows me to view all of the meetings that the council is in. There should be no meetings that are closed to the general public, please allow all meetings to be open to social media and in person attendance. This has been closed to us since speaker has been in office and there's definitely no order in the chambers. The speaker speaks on our behalf as a registered voter, by far she hasn't been my voice since she's been in office. We need a competent person that has experience that can be our voice. Not a newly elected delegate.

Thank you, Lisa Tsosie

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# Speaker Curley

Ray Thomas <rtomas1216@gmail.com>

Wed 5/10/2023 10:43 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

REMOVE Speaker Curley

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# In favor of Legislation 0086-23, to remove Crystalyn Curley from Speaker position.

Elise Mix <elisemix1@gmail.com>

Wed 5/10/2023 10:43 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello, Leaders of the Navajo Nation. This email is to show my support to remove Speaker C. Curley from her position. Having been a social worker for 30 plus years, I have witnessed many of our Dine' people suffering from alcohol and drug dependence. Therefore; I do not appreciate the alcohol use by any of our leaders, such as speaker Curley. She has been appointed to hold an honorable and a very important high position within our Navajo Nation government. And it is sad to see that she seems to take this position lightly and to think it is okay to drink alcohol. Being an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Social Worker, I have provided more than a thousand testimonies in state courts throughout the United States. I provide testimony as an expert on our Dine' culture and always state that alcohol use is not acceptable in our culture, that there is no such thing as drinking in moderation. Which is true, it is not part of Dine' culture and we should never begin to accept it at this time. Our young people are watching and if our Speaker/leaders are drinking alcohol, what kind of message are we sending to our young people?

The Dine people have voted for transparency and have hope for change. For too long, we have not been informed of many issues relating to our welfare and our tribal government. Speaker Curley and her friends are in favor of keeping my people in the dark, what kind of a leader does that? Furthermore; she is only contradicting her promises that she made during her campaign about transparency. She is not fair to her peers as shown on live videos and will only favor her friends. This is not good practice and some of us have suffered from this type of practice within the Navajo Nation government for too long.

It's time for us to move forward with true leadership, a speaker that can uphold integrity, honesty, being fair and to show true compassion for our people. Speaker Curley does not hold any of these qualities and should be removed.

Respectfully,

-

*Elise Mix*

*St. Michaels, AZ.*

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# Removal of Speaker Curley

Tilfred Benally <tilfred.benally@gmail.com>

Wed 5/10/2023 11:01 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good morning,

I am in favor of the removal of the current Speaker of the Navajo Nation, Crystalyn Curley.

We need a seasoned Council Delegate who is knowledgeable of the Laws and functions of the Navajo Nation Government.

Please shi Naat'anii's, consider this request.

Ahéhee',  
Tilfred T Benally

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# Removal of Speaker Curley

Irene Wilson <irenemwilson@gmail.com>

Wed 5/10/2023 2:21 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I support enacting legislation 0086-23

Speaker Curley has been provided adequate time to demonstrate she possesses the necessary experience in leading the 25th Navajo Nation Council, she was politely asked numerous times to say a few words about where she stood on alcohol along with her vision and goals she sees for the Nation. She was also questioned about an appointed staff member whose sexual allegation hasn't been settled, it appears her preferred response is to be silent and hope that people forget and that it'll go away on its own. An increase in interest is watching and they are studying the decisions of their leaders and what it means for their futures, the nation is listening for future goals and visions on where their government stands on issues. We need a strong VOICE!

The alcohol issue is huge on our reservation, our Nation is still working to recover from Seth Damon's public intoxication photos. Things like this do not go away easily, the reputation of drunk Navajo leaders can mean we're not capable of healing our nation because our leaders crash government vehicles and are not held accountable because no one knows the difference between what is right and what is wrong. Please understand, I am not judging no one here, and we've all come short of grace but we all aren't seated in the highest government offices, that's the point. Speaker Curley lacks maturity to lead, heard her giggling during council sessions, she's timid and cannot control the chamber environment when it's time to take charge. The selection of Speaker is done so with the expectation that the selected Speaker can be trusted to be their Natahnii' and lead the Council and the Navajo people by example with honor, integrity, veracity and reliability at all times, Speaker lacks all of the expectations.

Speaker Curley's inexperience and lack of leadership skills are not furthering the work of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo People.

Honorable \_\_Amber Kanazbah Crotty\_ is hereby selected and confirmed as the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 286 (B).

C. Honorable \_Amber Kanazbah Crotty\_ shall serve as Speaker until the end of the term of the 25th Navajo Nation Council and shall exercise all authorities of the Speaker as set forth in Title Two of the Navajo Nation Code.

Respectfully,

Irene Jim, Upper Fruitland, NM

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NO to 0086-23

Keith Yazzie <keiyazzie@yahoo.com>

Mon 4/24/2023 11:39 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

No to this legislation. What kind of message are we sending to our young people...leaders always say they want young people to get an education and return home to help us. Speaker and President Nygren are examples of those teachings. Are we telling our young people to get a education and come home so that we can target them when they rise to leadership?

Meanwhile, Eugenia Charles Newton continues to bash everyone on social media and no one holds her accountable for it. Its obvious that she is mad that she wasn't chosen for speaker and now shes she's seeking revenge. She announced a year ago that she wanted to be the speaker and her attempt failed. Eugenia won't even work together with her own chapter leaders so why does she think she can work with all those delegates. Quit it with the petty BS and do something for Shiprock instead of attacking others. Our president is young too and we need to give our young generation a chance and support them. Vote no to this legislation and send a message to Eugenia that her bullying needs to stop. If you're a real leader then help one another n if you have problem with Speaker then talk it out.

Keith Yazzie- northern agency resident

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Let my voice be Heard!

Olivia Carlson <livcarlson81@gmail.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 9:25 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

**April 25, 2023**

**Olivia Carlson**

**Navajo Citizen**

**P. O. Box**

**Tucson, AZ 85710**

**To Navajo Nation Council, My name is Olivia Carlson I am from the the Tuba City Chapter and I do not support this LEGISLATION - 0086-23. Keep Speaker Curley in!**

**To Charles Newton, the legislation sponsor,**

I have read your legislation and it sounds like a personal vendetta you have against Speaker Curley. You speak of Alcohol, aren't you an alcoholic? Or recovering alcoholic? Where do you stand with that? And don't you smoke or use Marijuana for some supposed health issues? But yet it's illegal on the Navajo Nation., Where do you stand with that?

You've also stated that you didn't want to be speaker then you stated you wanted to be speaker, make up your mind, you're confusing the Navajo People. A lot of propaganda and insinuations.

Us women are supposed to stick together but you're embarrassing us at a leadership level. I also hear that your chapter the Shiprock Chapter doesn't support you, and don't you have some open criminal cases

against you, do you have an update on those?

And You say you are highly educated but yet when in council sessions, you can't seem to understand simple translations about certain Navajo laws and codes. The legal council has to continue dumbing it down for you.

A lot of people see that Speaker Curley is doing a good job but it's you and several other delegates that are making it difficult. Immature actions, if you ask me. You're being a disgruntled employee, and you need to work with your own chapter relationships before trying to demeanor anyone else.

Lastly This legislation is an embarrassment to us Diné and you are inciting a lot of negativity even possible violent behavior within our people about your issues.

That is not transparency, it is INSURRECTION!

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# No on Legis. 0086-23

Richard Manny <rmann1802@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 3:27 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To whom it may concern,

To everyday Navajo people it is very frustrating to see our delegates bickering about legislation like 0086-23. While parents and kids need more options for homes, support for healthcare, scholarship money, you are putting forth legislation to remove one another from positions of authority.

This shows how far out of reality some delegates are. Instead of fighting for the basic needs our people your fighting over power and prestige. Ask almost anyone who has interacted with Delegate Charles-Newton and they will tell you how unprofessional and vindictive she is toward others. She is a pathological liar who is imitating what Trump does by belittling others and manipulating the people through social media to divide people and the delegates. It's all being done for personal gain on her part.

The council just got into office a few months ago and we have a new president in place. Give them time to get their staff and offices in order and get them moving on fixing real problems. Delegates need to think about how these actions look to our kids and elders. If you have a problem with the speaker then go see her, talk to her, and don't make it into a publicly stunt. Delegate ECN should withdraw the 0086-23 and stop the smearing of her colleagues and the Navajo Nation. If she doesn't then vote no.

Richard Mann, Jr., Navajo

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# Legislation No. 0086-23

Edward Dee <edee77@gmail.com>

Thu 4/27/2023 7:56 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I write in opposition to Legislation No. 0086-23.

Quite frankly, this legislation is a waste of the Navajo Nation's resources, i.e., the totality of collective staff and attorney's time and the Navajo Nation legislature's capital. The Honorable Speaker Crystalyne Curley's confirmation vote tally was 23-0 just over 100 days ago and the sponsor of Legislation 0086-23 voted in favor on January 23, 2023. Furthermore, I believe the sponsor was a nominee herself who came prepared with a well-devised statement and with the anticipation of becoming the next Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, but unfortunately the votes were not there. In hindsight, this legislation has all the appearance of vindication to undermine a lawful democratic process of electing a speaker.

The Navajo Nation is the largest sovereign tribe in the western hemisphere and there's no question other tribes look up to our Nation as a role-model government with deep seated cultural traditions; however, this type of legislation to remove a newly and legally elected speaker casts a global misgiving and a negative attributions from more than 570-plus federally-recognized tribes and nearby governors, state congressional leaders, and to say nothing of all the federal partners and leadership. In short, it's actually quite embarrassing!

It's unfortunate how quick some of the praise and promises are forgotten (with photo ops) regarding our Nation selecting a first women speaker as a young person and, the very public proclamation to, "Let's work together as One," while espousing the Diné doctrines of Ké', Hózhó, and respect for all.

This legislation is contrary to the affinity and reverence for a fellow delegate, but it gives the appearance of reprisal in the cheapest sense – an attempt to take down an incoming delegate. This type of appalling legislative maneuvers can be disruptive to the entire Legislative Branch's vision and mission.

Therefore, this legislation is futile and it makes no attempt to advance the Nation into the next week and beyond when viewed through the average Navajo citizen far from Window Rock politics.

I, affirmatively, write in opposition to legislation 0086-23.

Sincerely

Edward Dee  
Teec Nos Pos Chapter Registered Voter  
Teec Nos Pos, AZ 86514

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# Oppose Legislation #0086-23

Winsten Paul Dan <winstendan@arizona.edu>

Thu 4/27/2023 12:25 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hi Council Delegates of the 25th Navajo Nation Council,

I am Near to Water born for Yucca Fruit Strung Out, my chei is Manygoats and my nali's Salt Water People. I am originally from Chilchinbeto AZ but I am registered at my dad's chapter in Teec Nos Pos. I am emailing you today to oppose the legislation to remove the current Speaker of the Council. Speaker Crystalline Curley has done a great job so far representing our Navajo Nation. She is a fluent Navajo speaker and we have not had that in a long time. I believe an educated person along with their knowledge of Navajo to help our elders understand legislation is important. Also to hear Navajo being spoken in Council chambers should continue. Many council delegates are fluent in Navajo and it is beneficial to the communities you represent as well. This infighting in council is not ke and I hope you all vote in opposition so that the Navajo Nation Council can focus on other important legislation to help the Navajo Nation. So please vote no.

Thank you,

Winsten Dan,  
Grants Coordinator  
Pueblo of Isleta, Treasury Department

Albuquerque, NM 87109

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0086-23

Baahaali Chapter <baahaali@navajochapters.org>

Fri 4/28/2023 5:04 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

As a citizen and voting member of the Navajo Nation I am totally opposed to Legislation 0086-23. This legislation is premature and appears as "harassment" towards Speaker Curley. I strongly encourage the 25th Navajo Nation Council to do the "right thing" and oppose this legislation and keep Council Delegate Crystalyne Curley as Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

Gloria M. Skeet

--

## **Baahaali Chapter**

**Gloria M. Skeet, Chapter Manager**

**Jessica Robertson, Admin. Assistant**

PO Box 6118, Gallup, NM 87305

190A Rodeo Road, Bread Springs, NM 87305

Phone: (505) 778-5788/5792/5796

Fax: (505) 778-5192

Website: <http://baahaali.navajochapters.org>

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# To oppose Legislation No. 0086-23

Marjorie Goldtooth <gold2th.2020@gmail.com>

Mon 5/1/2023 2:51 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello, to All 25th Navajo Nation Council. Thank you for giving it back to us for comments. Maybe it should be given back to the people those that live way out there. Many of our people do not know what is going on.

Throughout the years, we heard and saw many wrong doings. Why wasn't anyone done something about it then.

A few years ago Chris Deshchennie was taken to court. Now hardly anyone talks Navajo. Maybe that rule needs to change. He should've given a chance.

This past year, there was a lot of words said to Johnathan Nez and Chad Abeyta. There were bullied and told to take off there clothes. We didn't see or hear anyone stepping up to tell the people. That is wrong to say.

I think Johnathan Nez, Chad Abeyta, his wife, Chris Deshchennie needs an apology with respect.

All these things needs to be address and if any wrong doing is being talked about. If everyone wants to go by the rule book.

All sessions, meeting should be in the people House

This is where our past leaders sat together to discuss and vote on it. Made it in law with their prayers. Thinking about their people.

This is where the session was held not in casino's. Maybe you should build in extra conference rooms for each Committees. If you want to take it back to people. That is good to. Most elderlies can't travel far or no transportation.

Last, hope our leaders can learn how to respect one another and not pointing fingers. No favortism just be as one. Think not just a few but all'their people.

Because they can't be there, that is why you are there. Then go to Washington to speak for us. Think about all of us then say to yourself.

What would they say if I did this or didn't do this. What is the best way to go around that obstacle. How can I help my people. Don't put to many red tapes or tangle string in the way. Sit down start on those stack of papers sitting their for so many years. You only have a few years to go. So in hale, exhale and go forward with your work as a team. No more pointing fingers at one another. Time is not waiting, sun is not waiting.

Let Madam Speaker Curly finish her position up when it expires. All the bove should tell you how many mistakes we all saw. Nothing was done about it. I do listen on the sessions so I do see things being said.

Ahehee for allowing us, the voters ( your Nataani's) to make our comments.

Marjorie Goldtooth

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0086-23

Rose Gillis <rmgillis@nnchapters.org>

Wed 5/10/2023 2:21 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I oppose this Legislation for removal of Speaker. There should have been proof of these allegations attached to the legislation instead of just the law/rules of a Speaker works. The legislation indicates Council Delegates. Written concerns and allegations should have been used as supporting documents. Alcohol use is a great concern and should not be tolerated. But why remove the Speaker for the conduct of her staff. Shouldn't the staff be removed using the proper procedures. Again Sexual Harassment by a staff of the Speaker should not require her removal. Remove the staff member. Speaker's inexperience of leadership was also indicated. All the members knew that she was a freshmen Delegate coming in and she was selected by her peers. When the Speaker was being selected this should have been taken into consideration to avoid this disruption of work. Removing the Speaker on most of the allegations set forth is not Hozho as stated by the Sponsor it is causing disharmony.

The supporting documents that are attached show that CJA-02-23 had a vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed. This is where the action of selecting the proper and experienced person should have been handled to avoid this disharmony.

I'm writing this in hopes that it will be considered as Delegate Charles-Newton stated in her live stream. She indicated that all comments are still being accepted.

Rose Gillis,

Oljato Chapter

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# 0086-23 Speaker of the 25th NN Council

Amanda Singer <asinger\_07@yahoo.com>

Wed 4/26/2023 3:27 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

To whom this may concern,

I am appalled that there are Council Delegates who are attempting to remove Crystalynn Curley from her seat. We voted for change and we received what we asked for. The fact that a young Dine woman is the NN Speaker gives the younger generation Hope and proof of change. Give her a chance and let her put her Master's degree to use.

In every employment position, you have a learning and training grace period. I believe that Speaker Curley should be given this grace period. I think it is crazy that certain individuals want her to create miracles within the 3 months of taking her seat as a Council Delegate and less then 3 months as the Speaker.

The Navajo tribal government is notorious of encouraging our youth to go to school and come home and help our people. Yet when they do, they are treated with disrespect by older colleagues. These older colleagues then accuse the younger, college educated generation that they lack experience and attempt to get them out of their positions. If Speaker Curley is removed it will just prove the community right. It is bad enough that there are so many registered voters who do not vote due to not having trust in the tribal government system. I think this will cause more young ones to step away from voting and lose interest in applying for Navajo government jobs. A lot of the young ones may not be expressing their concerns but they are definitely watching what is going to happen with Speaker Curley.

From what I understand, Delegate Newton-Charles is the lead person in attempting to remove Speaker Curley, stating lack of experience. Well, I think anyone who is voted to become the Speaker begins with lack of experience and they learn as they go. I don't know why it would be different for a young Dine lady.

I hope that Speaker Curley keeps her seat and continues to her work for the Navajo people.

Sincerely,

A concerned constituent

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# 0086-23 Removing the the Speaker comment

joezy redhouse <joezy\_redhouse@yahoo.com>

Fri 4/28/2023 4:26 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I hope that I am not too late for this e-mail. But hello, ya teeh. I feel that this is all discrimination against Speaker Crystalyne Curley. As a young adult I never involve myself in politics, and look at me now, getting myself involved. But anyone's opinion can be heard.

I would just like to point out some facts that Speaker Crystalyne Curley is making a difference in every community she oversees. Not once did I see our Former Speaker attend any meetings at most of these Chapters, Curley had actually attended three of our meetings and the community members/chapter voters have commented on what is impacting our community and had her know.

Curley has been in office for about 3-4 months and her responsibilities and duties to the chapters she oversees have just begun. She is not a robot and can only juggle so many things at a time. And with the no help of the former Delegate in pointing out what he had left off on plans that had been drawn when he was in office, is why Curley is struggling with the voters.

THE WALL OF CHINA WAS NOT BUILT IN 3 MONTHS. Curley is processing these resolutions, and plans at the pace that all these procedures take and go through. People want to see changes and request for all of these assistances and money. I don't think that is what the Navajo Nation means. People say Navajo Nation a self-governing nation no, we rely on the Government to flash money in our eyes and make us jump when the shoot bullets at our feet.

I can say that our nation started on Speakers who didn't have much knowledge or experience in the line of duties and responsibilities. Is this what the older group of adults setting the younger soon to be Speakers examples? Especially young women who dream and educate themselves to hopefully one day set foot in the place of a Speaker. I for one am proud as a woman that Crystalyne has made the nation known that a woman is also meant to STRIVE and become successful.

I believe I can say that as a nation we should be helping and making our nation great again and Honestly we have no time to be trying to get Speakers out of office.

Crystalyne is younger generation with fresh and new ideas, more agile, educated, determined and proud of her NATION, her LEADERSHIP, and FEMININITY.

So hear my voice and take into consideration on my opinion in this absurd-ridiculous-FIASCO.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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# Speaker Curley versus Newton

WAYNE CLAW` <wynclaw@yahoo.com>

Wed 5/3/2023 7:48 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Ya-de-la...Quit fighting and get to work for the Navajo Nation....You all ran, including the Executive Office on Transparency, their is no communication among all of you.....As long as the past Presidents (Shirley and Nez) interferes with this administration, nothing will change...Quit lying to the people and get to work.

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# Speaker

Steven Kee <keesteven82@gmail.com>

Wed 5/3/2023 8:54 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good Day The Honorable N N Council Delegates.

There are much more very important issues before you daily like Water Right Litigation, Indian Child Welfare, private family burial plots. It's endless.

Replacement of the current NN Council Speaker is micromanaging one's own Agenda.

Each one of you are elected on equal terms, what you will do for your local community and overall the 110 Chapter.

Where is your Ke'?

Look at the dirt, gravel and paved road. Housing, new Court and Jail.

We all act like children at times, no matter our age.

Respectful, Steven Kee, Ganado Farm Board member.

Enjoy your day and let by gone be by gone, with Ke'

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# RE: Proposed Removal Of Speaker

Kee Jackson <keejacksonjr@yahoo.com>

Wed 5/10/2023 10:43 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

The power of being any " Tribal Official or Leader can become toxic, pushing your weight around all over people with an " I'm all it " attitude which spells out a narcissistic imbecile with not only a mental health disorder but a sad portrayal of a person who likes to get away with the filthy things they do, and go and lie about it as if they never did anything wrong.. no matter if injustice serves their ego. Such is an example of the current Speaker. Selfishly jumping into a pool of groomed delegates vying for Speakership even though her lack of experience should have told everyone she's not the person for an important role that we don't need anyone who's only carrying her respect and humility to the table when everyone else carried so much more to include competence. That's what the NN deserves, competence. Not someone who will be manipulative, backstabbing, dishonest and childish in every way, by now is Speaker Curley had some honor, she would excuse herself and I feel those who are supporting her should do just that- encourage her to resign. All the excuses made for her, only shows some people can't stand to hear the truth. And the truth is.. the Navajo Nation can do a lot better with a new Speaker.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0086-23**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton**


**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Removing the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council; Selecting a Speaker for the 25th Navajo Nation Council**

**Posted: April 21, 2023 at 10:35 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: April 26, 2023**

**Digital Comments received:**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Comments Supporting</b>      | 1) Roselyn Clark<br>2) Rena Begay  |
| <b>Comments Opposing</b>        | 1) Steamboat Chapter<br>2) Wanda Hadley<br>3) Rita Capitan<br>4) Zunneh-bah A. Jim |
| <b>Comments/Recommendations</b> | <i>None</i>  |

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Policy Analyst  
Office of Legislative Services**

**May 11, 2023; 9:45 AM**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date/Time**

# Speaker CP

Roselyn Clark <shicrosln@gmail.com>

Wed 5/10/2023 4:54 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I think Speaker needs to be remove. Do to her knowledge at work. We need a Speaker that have knowledge and know what is going on. Years, months and days are going by fast we just can't wait and sit around. My parents had ask for help years and years. Nothing had happen for them. We just can't sit on the funds and wait the last minute. Just like NHA that sit on billions, an funds were sent back to the government. Thanks 🙏🙏🙏🙏

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# Legislation 0086-23

Rena Begay <renabegaytohonnie@gmail.com>

Thu 5/11/2023 9:31 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Rena T. Begay

I am with the Hardrock Chapter and I am in support of removing Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyn Curley. The speaker doesn't have the experience to be a NN Speaker nor knowledgeable about the Navajo Nation laws to run an efficient 25th council meeting. Through observation of the meetings I saw the results of no control over the meetings and being called out of order too. One incident that was inappropriate and unprofessional was allowing comments on personal comments directed at one council individual and it was not settled nor stopped by her. The Navajo Nation 25th Council meeting is a place for an important agenda and not a place to bring up personal problems. I hope to have her replaced with Honorable Amber Crotty. Thank you, Mrs. RBegay

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# STEAMBOAT COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

Jefferson Kee, *Commissioner President*  
Ernest Tsosie, *Commissioner Vice President*  
Kerrie L. Ashley, *Commissioner Secretary/Treasurer*  
Manuel Rico, Jr. *Commissioner*  
*Vacant, Commissioner*



Vince R. James, *Council Delegate*  
Duane Yazzie, *Grazing Committee Member*  
Juliuson Bitsuie, *Commission Manager*  
Stephanie Curley, *Administrative Assistant*

P.O. Box 117 Ganado, Arizona 86505 • Phone (928)736-2631/33 • Fax (928)736-2634 • [steamboat@navajochapters.org](mailto:steamboat@navajochapters.org)

Dr. Buu Nygren, Navajo Nation President

Richelle Montoya, Navajo Nation Vice President

SCG-2023-05-01

## RESOLUTION OF STEAMBOAT COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

**THE STEAMBOAT COMMISSION GOVERNMENT OPPOSES NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL LEGISLATION 0086-23 – AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; REMOVING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; SELECTING A SPEAKER FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AND URGING COUNCIL DELEGATE VINCE JAMES TO OPPOSE THE LEGISLATION BILL.**

### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to TCDC Resolution TCDYMT-60-03; Steamboat Chapter is a local Governance Act ("LGA") certified Chapter authorized to exercise certain governance authorities contained within 26 N.N.C. § 103, with the exception of land administration authority pursuant to 26 N.N.C. §103 (D) (I); and
2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-51-04, Steamboat Chapter is a Governance Certified Chapter authorized to exercise certain authorities within 26 N.N.C; and
3. The Steamboat Commission Government is delegated to act within its authority to review all local matters affecting the Community members consistent with Navajo Nation law, including custom and tradition which compel the chapter to govern with responsibility and accountability to the community members; and
4. The Steamboat community residents voted and approved on August 23, 2011 an Alternative Form of Government to change to Commission-Manager Style Government; and
5. The Steamboat Commission Government opposes legislation 0086-23 due to the lack of evidence shown to the Navajo People regarding Findings C1 – C4 of the legislation; and
8. The Steamboat Commission Government Urges Council Delegate Vince James to oppose this legislation.

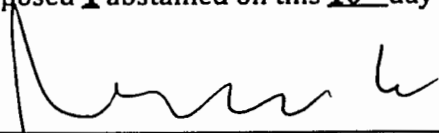
### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

**THE STEAMBOAT COMMISSION GOVERNMENT OPPOSES NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL LEGISLATION 0086-23 – AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO**

**NATION COUNCIL; REMOVING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; SELECTING A SPEAKER FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AND URGING COUNCIL DELEGATE VINCE JAMES TO OPPOSE THE LEGISLATION BILL.**

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Steamboat Commission Government at a duly called meeting in Steamboat, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present, motioned by **Commissioner Tsosie** and seconded by **Commissioner Ashley** and that the same was passed by a vote of **3** in favor and **0** opposed **1** abstained on this **10<sup>th</sup>** day of **May 2023**.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jefferson Kee, Commission President

**VISION STATEMENT**

*To cherish, enhance, and promote self-sufficiency for the residents of Steamboat Community's livelihood and respect cultural diversity through education.*

# KEEP SPEAKER CURLEY

Wanda Hadley <whadley316@gmail.com>

Wed 5/10/2023 8:19 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Honorable Delegates,

I humbly request that each of you make a decision in good faith because your action or inaction will have far reaching consequences. Each day, we are faced with situations in life that require us to make choices. Some of these choices are easy, and at times, some of them can be difficult.

Decisions that seem to be the most difficult are those that require a deeper level of thought. These types of decisions are difficult because they are life changing decisions; they shape who we/you are; and they shape our/your future. In making a decision, make sure you are fully aware of your goals, options and consequences.

In addition, as you make your decision there are unforeseen issues inherent in the process. Perhaps, the problem has been misidentified; there is a single source of information for action; there are multiple sources for action; the action overestimates the outcome and lastly the action was poorly timed..

Honorable Delegates, you have been elected by your communities to represent them in a respectable, honorable, ethical, righteous and conscientious manner. I humbly urged you to use your position and voice for the overall benefit of all our Dine populace.

Thank you,

W Hadley

Black Mesa Chapter Constituent

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0086-23

Rita Capitan <rcapitan@naataanii.org>

Wed 5/10/2023 11:35 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I oppose Legislation 0086-23.

It does not have a strong base on why this legislation was introduced. I have been watching Speaker Curley conduct her duties and feel like she is doing a good job. The other concerns are and could be resolved other ways and not through hearsay.

Rita Capitan

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May 10, 2023

25th Navajo Nation Council

Re: Oppose Legislation No. 0086-23

I oppose Legislation No. 0086-23. Yá'át'ééh Shi Naat'a'i. As an enrolled citizen & registered voter of the Navajo Nation, I ask our Leadership in the Legislative Branch of our Tribal Government to support their colleague, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, & vote no on Legislation No. 0086-23. I ask our Elected Council Delegates to keep Crystalyne Curley as Madam Speaker, to join together in solidarity, & to unify against this legislation. Honorable Crystalyne Curley was voted in & selected as Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council on January 23, 2023 pursuant to Resolution No. CJA-02-23. The Council Delegates have spoken & chose Shi Naat'a'i Crystalyne Curley as the First Navajo Woman Speaker of the Navajo Nation. Speaker Curley does in fact lead the Council & the Navajo People by example with honor, integrity, veracity, & reliability at all times. Speaker Curley has such admirable positive leadership skills & she has plenty of experience as a young professional respectful Navajo Woman Leader with a healthy/growth mindset. She can even understand & speak fluent Diné Bizaad, which is beneficial when working as a leader across the Navajo Nation.

It has been just over 100 days since Honorable Curley has been confirmed as Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. Those who propose such ridiculous & unnecessary legislation like this are the ones who should be considered to be removed from such leadership roles like being a Council Delegate. Those who wrote & support this legislation are doing the opposite of restoring Hózhǫ́ within the Navajo Nation Council & are the ones contributing to destroying the Council's service to the Navajo People. There are bigger & more important pressing matters that should be proposed in legislation to be addressed to help our people. Trying to remove a new young leader is not going to contribute to any solutions for our people, it is only contributing to causing more problems. What is the point of telling our younger generation to leave the reservation to get a higher education & tell them to come back & help our people when there are those in elected leadership roles who seek to discourage & remove young leaders from high level leadership positions? How do you think that makes our Navajo Nation Government, our Legislative Branch, & our Leadership in general look? Our Elected Leaders, especially our Elected Asdzáán Leaders, should be supporting & uplifting each other like Speaker Curley continues to do, instead of trying to bring each other down & remove each other like the Sponsor of this legislation is trying to do.

It has been an amazing year to see shadí & Former Royalty/Sash Sister, Speaker Curley, take on a new leadership role as the First Diné Woman to be selected as our Honorable Madam Speaker of the Navajo Nation. She also has knowledge & skills as an Educated College Graduate with multiple College Degrees. I am inspired as an educated young professional Diné Woman to see someone I look up to & identify with stepping into this role as a young leader to help nihí Diné doo bilá'ashdla'ii. I have so much respect for her & have witnessed her successfully & gracefully lead in many positions since serving in various Ambassador roles. She is a true leader in my eyes & I honor her as shadí, as Former Respectable Royalty (2008-2009 Miss Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial Queen & 2011-2012 Miss Navajo Nation), & as MADAM SPEAKER OF THE NAVAJO NATION. 'Ahxéhee'.

Sincerely,

Zunneh-bah A. Jim, Tsénahabilnii nishłí, Naakai báshishchíín, Naadą́'á' Ligai Naasht'ézhi Tábaqahá dashinálí, adoo Áł'aa Dine'é (Modoc) dashicheii. Tohtakai dęę' naashá. Ákót'éego asdzání nishłí.

2015 Graduate/Valedictorian of Tohatchi High School

2017-2018 Miss Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial Queen

2019 B.A. Graduate of Colorado College

2021 M.A. Graduate of University of New Mexico Native American Studies Department M.A. Program



"Speaker Curley responds to ousting legislation" by Jody Wilson, Diné Bureau, Independent (May 3-4, 2023, No. 111 Vol. 136)

"WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Navajo Nation Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Crystalyne Curley responded to legislation seeking to oust her as Speaker. In an email to the Independent, Curley said she intends to remain focused on the job at hand.

"I respect all of my Council colleagues & every one of them has the right to introduce legislation. I feel very confident that we will continue making progress & making improvements as we move forward. There are many priorities related to infrastructure & many other needs of the people & that's my focus."

Navajo Nation Council Delegate ECN sponsored the legislation to remove Speaker Curley because, according to CN, Curley has "not lived up to expectations placed on her by Council."

'Room for improvement'

The legislation said Speaker Curley & her office fail to communicate with delegates of the 25th Navajo Nation Council. In a statement to the Independent, Curley said she is open to finding the best approach to communicate with each delegate.

"There's always room for improvement when it comes to communication for any elected leader. There are 23 other delegates & each has their own communication style. We have delegates who prefer a phone call or in-person discussions & other delegates who prefer email or text messages. There is a great amount of correspondence that comes through the Office of the Speaker, so it is challenging to deal with communication barriers at times, but we continue to make improvements."

The legislation also said Speaker Curley has not provided her stance on the use of alcohol by her staff despite repeated requests by council delegates to do so. Curley said they have followed the policy on drugs & alcohol in the workplace.

"As a condition of employment, every Navajo Nation employee is required to acknowledge & sign the Navajo Nation's policy on drugs & alcohol in the workplace, which prohibits the use of alcohol & drugs in the office or where official business is conducted," read the Speaker's statement. "While she [Curley] has had the position of the Speaker, there have been no incidents involving alcohol among staff within the Office of the Speaker. Speaker has not consumed any alcohol the entire time in office."

Consumption & possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are strictly prohibited on the Navajo Nation.

The third part of the legislation said Speaker Curley did not immediately address safety & re-traumatizing concerns raised by council delegates related to a previous sexual harassment allegation against a member of Speaker's staff. Curley said this was referring to an incident that occurred well before her time on Council.

"During Speaker's time in office, there have been absolutely no allegations of sexual harassment within the Office of the Speaker. The language referenced in the legislation was related to a matter over 20 years ago which the Speaker did not take lightly. The matter was addressed & there are no safety concerns."

'Experience'

Lastly, the legislation stated Speaker Curley's inexperience & lack of leadership skills are not furthering the work of the 25th Navajo Nation Council & the Navajo people. In an email to the Independent, Curley gave a rundown of her resume that attest to her abilities as a leader.

"Speaker previously served as a policy analyst with Diné College & the Navajo Government Development Office. In addition, she served as a Legislative District Assistant for two years. She served as a Senior Public Information Officer for the Office of the Speaker & Office of the President & Vice President for seven years before being elected to the Council this past November, representing the communities of Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, & Low Mountain. She also served as Vice President on the Rough Rock School Board for over six years, as Sheriff Posse Team Member for emergency responses, & Navajo Nation Command Operations Center Section Chief during the COVID-19 pandemic for two years."

As for concerns about her age, Curley states that it is discouraging.

"In regards to being 'too young' to hold the position: as young people, we are told to get your education & return home to help our people & that's exactly what I did. I earned a Bachelor's Degree & a Master's Degree & now I'm back to help. What message does this legislation send to all of our young people?"

Regarding staff being released when she took office, Curley said it is customary for staff members who are politically appointed to vacate their positions when a new elected leader, or new administration, takes office.

"This is true for the Office of the Speaker & Office of the President & Vice President," she states.

"Politically-appointed staff are well-aware of this prior to the transition of administrations."

She also said she is following the rules when she travels outside of the reservation.

"The issue of appointing a Speaker Pro Tem is done in accordance with Title II of the Navajo Nation Code. Speaker does appoint a Pro Tem when she is required to travel for a period of time."

'Nygren weighs in'

In a phone interview with the Independent, Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren spoke about his working relationship with Speaker Curley.

"I have heard about the legislation & all I know is my relationship with the Speaker so far has been great," he said. "I definitely do enjoy working with Speaker Curley. The main thing I think about is showing unity & stability to the outside world that's what's important. We have to continue to work with one another & continue to know each other's strengths & weaknesses & to really compliment one another so that we can all be successful."

The legislation was brought to the Naabik'iyati' Committee on April 27 but Sponsor CN was not present at the meeting so they did not discuss it further.

CN represents the community of Shiprock. She serves on the Law & Order Committee & can be reached at...

Contact Curley at [crystalynne.curley@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:crystalynne.curley@navajo-nsn.gov)."