

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0149-22

DATE: July 14, 2022

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will be the Navajo Nation's firm position in opposing any state within the United States decriminalizing the use of peyote and urges all states to limit the non-criminal use of peyote for religious, ceremonial, and cultural purposes only, as it is stated in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994, 42 U.S.C § 1996a, P.L. 103-344.

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

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: 11:05AM; 08-04-22
Posting End Date: 08-09-22
Eligible for Action: 08-10-22

Resources & Development Committee

Thence

Health Education & Human Services Committee

Thence

Law & Order Committee

Thence

Naabik'iyáti' Committee

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Fourth Year, 2022

INTRODUCED BY



(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0149-22

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE

WHEREAS,

- A. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A), 701(A)(6).
- B. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to represent the Navajo Nation at local, state, and federal levels, in cooperation and coordination with the President of the Navajo Nation and the appropriate committee of the Navajo Nation Council on proposed resolutions or actions affecting natural resources. . . 2 N.N.C. §§ 500(A), 501(B)(5)
- C. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to represent the Navajo Nation at local, state and federal levels, in coordination with the President of the Navajo Nation and the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on proposed legislation, funding and other actions affecting environmental health. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(B)(7)(a).

- 1 D. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
2 with its purpose to protect the rights and interests of the Navajo People by improving the
3 quality and effectiveness of the justice system within the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
4 600(C)(2).
- 5 E. The use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes by the Native American Church
6 members is one of the oldest religious traditions in the Western Hemisphere; a recent
7 carbon dating of peyote at an archeological site in Texas revealed that the peyote dated
8 back to 4,220 B.C. (approximately 6,000 years ago). James D. Muneta, *Peyote Crisis*
9 *Confronting Modern Indigenous Peoples: The Declining Peyote Population and a*
10 *Demand for Conservation*, Amer. Ind. Law Journal: Vol. 9 : Iss. 1, Article 6., (2020).
11 <https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1228&context=ailj>
- 12 F. Tribal members whom are bonafide members of the Native American Church consume
13 the sacred cactus plant (*lophophora williamsii*) known as peyote which contains the
14 hallucinogenic drug “*mescaline*” during ceremonies. The hallucinogenic effect of
15 mescaline is naturally found in the peyote cactuses (*lophophora williamsii*).
- 16 G. In the Southwest United States, including Texas, and Mexico, peyote is drastically
17 declining due to land development, ranching, agriculture, poaching, psychedelic tourism,
18 incorrect harvesting, and other factors such as recreational use and climate change.
- 19 H. Peyote is a slow-growing cactus that takes approximately ten or more years to grow from
20 a seed to a mature plant to be consumed.
- 21 I. The Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation, Inc., passed a resolution, attached as **Exhibit A**,
22 requesting the Navajo Nation to oppose decriminalization of peyote by all states across
23 the United States. The Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation, Inc., further recognized
24 through their resolution that peyote should only be strictly used by bonafide members of
25 the Native American Church as it is stated in the American Indian Religious Freedom
26 Act Amendments of 1994, 42 U.S.C 1996a, P.L. 103-344.
- 27 J. Azeé means medicine in Diné language. Diné Native American Church traditional
28 practitioners identify Azeé to also mean peyote and is believed to spiritually heal a person
29 through songs, prayers, and consumption of the Azeé (Peyote).
- 30 K. The Navajo Nation understands that peyote is classified as a Schedule I controlled
substance under the Federal Controlled Substance Act. However, the Navajo Nation

1 government has allowed the ceremonial, cultural, and religious use of peyote since 1967
2 within the Navajo Nation through Resolution No. CO-65-67. Resolution No. CO-65-67
3 is hereby incorporated by reference only.

4 L. The Navajo Nation further understands that federal law, the American Indian Religious
5 Freedom Act Amendments of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 1996a, P.L. 103-344 provided
6 authorization for bonafide members of the Native American Church to legally use peyote
7 for religious purposes only.

8 M. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose decriminalizing the use of peyote
9 as it is a cacti that could be excessively harvested and will endanger the plant (peyote)
10 and will also substantially affect the religious, ceremonial and cultural practices of
11 Indigenous People across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo
12 Nation who have a sincere religious belief and a strong connection to the use of peyote
13 for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

14
15 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,**

16 The Navajo Nation firmly opposes any state within the United States decriminalizing the use
17 of peyote and urges all states to limit the non-criminal use of peyote for religious, ceremonial,
18 and cultural purposes only, as it is stated in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act
19 Amendments of 1994, 42 U.S.C § 1996a, P.L. 103-344.



AZEE' BEE NAHAGHA OF DINE NATION, Inc.
P.O. Box 1570 Chinle, Arizona 86503



Willie Tracey Jr., President
Albert Johnson, Vice President

Victoria Woody, Treasurer
Reyayanne Harvey, Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE AZEE' BEE NAHAGHA OF DINE NATION, Inc.

**Respectfully Approving and Recommending the Navajo Nation Council to Oppose the
National Peyote Decriminalization**

WHEREAS:

1. Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation, Inc. (ABNDN Inc.) is governed by Board of Directors as provided for in its Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws; and
2. The Native American Church of Navajoland, Inc. (NACNI, Inc.), now known as ABNDN Inc. was established on June 11, 1966 as a non-profit organization, was incorporated within the State of New Mexico on May 15, 1972 and in December 1989, the Advisory Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council granted a Revocable Land Use Permit (Mission Site) for NACNI, comprising of ten (10) acres of Navajo Nation Trust land at Chinle, Arizona; and
3. ABNDN, Inc. is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting it's membership while making appropriate delicate decisions as deem necessary and to make recommendation to various agencies while seeking resources; and
4. ABNDN recognizes the Azeeé (Peyote) plant to be sacred among the Navajo people; and
5. ABNDN recognizes Azeeé (Peyote) has been consumed by Navajo people for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes since time in immemorial; and
6. ABNDN recognizes certain lands in the Southwest part of Texas and in Northern Mexico are cultural places of significant importance where Azeeé (Peyote) plant grows in its aboriginal habitat; and
7. ABNDN recognizes the number of Azeeé (Peyote) plants has decreased in recent years, threatening the long-term sustainability of the Azeeé (Peyote) aboriginal habitats or populations, and depleting the number of Azeeé (Peyote) that could be available for future generations; and
8. ABNDN recognizes the personal and corporate cultivation of the Azeeé (Peyote) plant threatens the historical, cultural, and biological integrity of the plant by potentially exposing the population to hybridization, genetic modification, and sterilization, all of which is in violation of Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994); and
9. ABNDN recognizes the movement to decriminalize Azeeé (Peyote) use directly threatens the availability of Azeeé (Peyote) and integrity of the ceremonial use of Azeeé (Peyote) for Navajo people, including other Indigenous peoples, and would be contrary to the doctrine of

federal preemption, whereby federal law supersedes state law in this area (under Public Law 103-344 AIRFA of 1994).

10. ABNDN recognizes the decriminalization of Azeé (Peyote) consumption beyond the already hundreds of thousands of federally recognized tribes and other Indigenous peoples, including Navajo people, will create a demand and market for Azeé (Peyote) that further threatens the existing aboriginal inhabitants.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. ABNDN opposes the decriminalization of Azeé (Peyote). Usage should be only by a federally enrolled tribal citizen who uses Azeé (Peyote) in a bona fide traditional ceremony.

2. ABNDN opposes the extraction and synthesis of mescaline, and any cultivation, tincture, or manufacturing for scientific purposes (research), or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.

3. ABNDN hereby requests to protect and preserve Azeé (Peyote) strictly used for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes by the Navajo people, as protected under federal law.

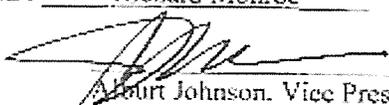
4. ABNDN hereby requests Navajo leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life and the lands in which they reside within its natural aboriginal habitat.

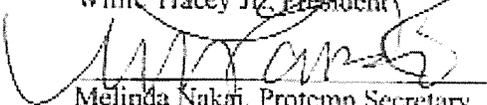
CERTIFICATION

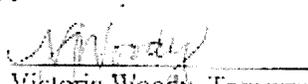
We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the ABNDN, Inc. Executive Officials and Board of Directors at a duly called meeting at Chinle, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 11 in favor, 00 opposed and 01 abstained, this 16th day of April, 2022.

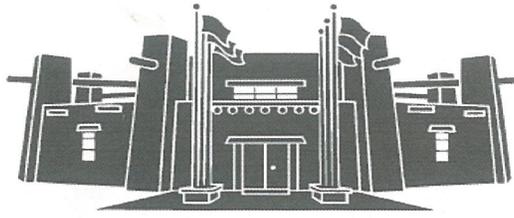
MOTION: Justin Dale SECOND: Richard Monroe


Willie Tracey Jr., President


Albert Johnson, Vice President


Melinda Nakai, Protemp Secretary


Victoria Woody, Treasurer



MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairwoman, Eugenia Charles-Newton, Sponsor
Law and Order Committee
24th Navajo Nation Council

Vice-Chairman Thomas Walker, Jr., Co-Sponsor
Resources and Development Committee
24th Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Chad Abeyta, Attorney
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: July 14, 2022

SUBJECT: **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE**

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

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§300, 400, 500, 600 and 700. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

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

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0149-22_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Health, Education, and Human Services, Law and Order, and the Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Opposing States' Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote

Date posted: August 04, 2022 at 11:05AM

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

Written comments may be mailed to:

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

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

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

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

LEGISLATION NO.: 0149-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Health, Education, and Human Services, Law and Order, and the Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Opposing States' Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote

Posted: August 04, 2022 at 11:05 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: August 09, 2022

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ronald Benally 2) Earl Morris, Jr. 3) ABNDN, District 17 4) David S. Clark 5) Richard Monroe 6) Alburt Johnson 7) Lula Monroe 8) ABNDN, District 3 9) ABNDN, District 5 10) Brooke Clark 11) Amber Begaye 12) Carlos Clark 13) Tamara Talayumptewa 14) Darlene Clark 15) Dudley Clark 16) Geraldyn Clark 17) Sharon Clark-Begaye 18) Byron Clark 19) Austin Wero 20) Camria Clark-Robinson 21) Darren Cling 22) David Cling 23) Maximus Oliver 24) Tristen Tsosie 25) Hershel Walker Clark
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>

Comments/Recommendations	1) Lorenzo Bedonie
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**Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services**

August 10, 2022; 7:30 AM

Date/Time

Peyote Decriminalization

Ronald Benally <redmesa91@gmail.com>

Tue 8/9/2022 3:01 PM

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

Yaateeh Abini,

My name is Ronald Benally , I'm the Board of Director for 9-A , Tolikan ABNDN Chapter.

I' writing this response in regards to Peyote Decrimination legislation that is currently in place. We the majority of the board are full support to continue with the process to move forward and looking for your full support.

AHEE HEE

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

LEGISLATION NO: 0149-22

Earl Morris JR. <emjr.00@gmail.com>

Tue 8/9/2022 3:02 PM

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

I am a registered member of the Azeé Bee Nahagha of Diné Nation organization and have been made aware by my local leaders of a recent legislation that proposes the decriminalization of peyote. I offer my disapproval of this legislation and encourage those with the power to oppose as well. I was raised with the peyote ceremony which to my family is a very sacred religion and the partaking of this form of medicine is also sacred to us Native people and is used in a very strict and sacred manner. To decriminalize the usage of peyote would result in unintended consequences that will destroy our way of life. Popularizing the usage of peyote to outside Native communities and allowing recreational usage of peyote would result in mass production efforts and attempts to commercialize this holy sacrament. The government has no business in trying to regulate our faith as Diné people. So again, I strongly oppose and hope it will be reconsidered to honor our religious beliefs and take account the effects these laws would have on Indigenous communities.

Thank You,
Earl Morris Jr

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



A Supporting Resolution by Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation District 17 to the 24th Navajo Nation Council to Oppose the Decriminalization of Peyote (mescaline) at the State, Local Governments, and Territories in the United States (US).

WHEREAS:

1. District 17 Chapters (Ganado, Wide Ruins/Klagetoh, Steamboat, Cornfields, Kinlichee, Greasewood) is a local entity of Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation (ABNDN) recognized and certified with authority and responsibility to act in the best interest of its members on matters in pertaining to the protection and preservation of our sacred Azeé (Peyote).
2. The ABNDN, formerly known as the Native American Church of Navajoland (NACNL), have fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways.
3. District 17 Chapters (Ganado, Wide Ruins/Klagetoh, Steamboat, Cornfields, Kinlichee, Greasewood) understands Public Law 103-344 (P.L 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only.
4. District 17 Chapters (Ganado, Wide Ruins/Klagetoh, Steamboat, Cornfields, Kinlichee, Greasewood) urges all states, local government, and territories in the US to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member as recognized under P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
5. District 17 Chapters (Ganado, Wide Ruins/Klagetoh, Steamboat, Cornfields, Kinlichee, Greasewood) recognizes the movement to decriminalize peyote (mescaline) by the state, local governments, and territories in the US directly violates P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
6. District 17 Chapters (Ganado, Wide Ruins/Klagetoh, Steamboat, Cornfields, Kinlichee, Greasewood) believes it is in the best interest for the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote (mescaline) efforts in the US as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

1. District 17 Chapters (Ganado, Wide Ruins/Klagetoh, Steamboat, Cornfields, Kinlichee,

Greasewood) sstrongly opposes the decriminalization of peyote (mescaline) and urge all states, local governments, and territories in the US to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

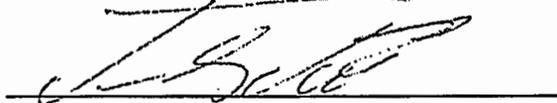
2. District 17 Chapters (Ganado, Wide Ruins/Klagetoh, Steamboat, Cornfields, Kinlichee, Greasewood) strongly opposes the extraction and synthesis of peyote (mescaline), and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived therefrom, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. District 17 Chapters (Ganado, Wide Ruins/Klagetoh, Steamboat, Cornfields, Kinlichee, Greasewood) hereby requests Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting in Klagetoh,, Arizona, at which time a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 22 in favor, and 0 opposed, and 0

abstained, on this 24th day of July 2022.

Motion by: Marilyn Taliman Seconded by: Robert Begay



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Foster', is written over a horizontal line.

Trevor S. Foster, ABNDN District 17 BOD



Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation
Former President / Founder: David S. Clark

August 6, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

The passing of Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994 and Title 17, Section 394 of the Navajo Nation Criminal Code Controlled Substance Law protects federally recognized tribal members, including Navajos, to use, possess, and transport peyote for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only. Navajo Nation should be at the forefront in opposing the decriminalization of peyote by standing firmly by the statutory and regulatory laws.

The Navajo Nation, including other Tribal Nations, have fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the legal right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) for ceremonial and cultural purposes. Other Tribal Nations a wait for Navajo leadership to move forward in a unifying effort. It takes great courage and leadership to do what is right.

We fought hard to legalize the use of our medicine. I whole heartly support the ABNDN Peyote Task Forces recommended revisions to uphold the statutory laws within the Navajo Nations proposed resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at (928) . Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

David S. Clark, Former President / Founder of ABNDN



Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation
Richard Monroe, District 5 Board of Director

August 7, 2022

24th Navajo Nation Council
Post Office Box 3390
Window Rock, Navajo Nation AZ 86515

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing in support for the Navajo Nation proposed resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote throughout the country. However, additional revised language is needed within the proposed resolution. The recommended revisions will provide much needed support in protecting the ceremonial and cultural use of our sacred Azeé (peyote).

In addition, this resolution, with revisions, will ensure federal protection of our Azeé (peyote) and will be in accordance with Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only. I am aware of the decriminalization of peyote efforts in the US. I believe it is in the best interest for the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the US. Furthermore, this peyote initiative has created a stronger need for the Navajo Nation to advocate for the enforcement of federal regulations on peyote.

I believe the proposed resolution, with recommended revisions by the ABNDN Peyote Task Force, will further protect the rights for Navajo people to use our Azeé (peyote) in a respectful and meaningful way. I appreciate your continuous leadership during this time. I wish you the best and thank you for your time regarding this important matter for the Navajo people.

Sincerely,

Richard Monroe, ABNDN District 5 Board of Director



**Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation:
Ceremonial Protection Committee**

Richard Monroe, Chairperson
Al Yazzie, Vice Chairperson

August 8, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

The Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné (ABNDN) Ceremonial Protection Committee thanks and appreciates the Honorable Delegate Charles-Newton for acknowledging the ABNDN Peyote Task Force revised recommendations to the proposed resolution. However, additional revised language is still needed within the proposed resolution. Therefore, ABNDN Ceremonial Protection Committee respectfully requests the Navajo Council to revise the language within the proposed resolution to be in accordance with the Navajo Nation Title 17 Controlled Substance Code and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendment of 1994.

ABNDN Ceremonial Protection Committee whole heartly supports the 24th Navajo Nation Council proposed resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote with recommended revisions. We appreciate your leadership as we continue to protect and preserve our Navajo way of life. Please feel free to contact the ABNDN Ceremonial Protection Committee Chairperson, Richard Monroe at (928) _____ for any questions or additional information. Ahéhee. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

ABNDN Ceremonial Protection Chairperson



**Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation:
Peyote Task Force Committee**

Alburt Johnson, Chairperson
Emmett Johnson, Treasurer
Lenora Hataathlie, Secretary

August 7, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

The Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné (ABNDN) Peyote Task Force appreciates the Honorable Delegate Charles-Newton for acknowledging ABNDN Task Forces revised recommendations to the proposed resolution. However, additional revised language is still needed within the proposed resolution. Therefore, ABNDN Peyote Task Force will respectfully work with the Navajo leadership to further strengthen the Navajo Nations position to oppose the decriminalization of peyote in the US.

ABNDN Peyote Task Force whole heartly supports the Navajo Nation proposed resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote with recommended revisions. We appreciate your leadership as we continue to protect and preserve our Navajo way of life. Please feel free to contact the ABNDN Peyote Task Force Chairperson, Alburt Johnson at (928) for any questions or additional information. Ahéhee. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Alburt Johnson, ABNDN Peyote Task Force Chairperson



August 7, 2022

24th Navajo Nation Council
Post Office Box 3390
Window Rock, Navajo Nation AZ 86515

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing in support for the Navajo Nation proposed resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote throughout the country. However, additional revised language is needed within the proposed resolution. The recommended revisions will provide much needed support in protecting the ceremonial and cultural use of our sacred Azeé (peyote).

In addition, this resolution, with revisions, will ensure federal protection of our Azeé (peyote) and will be in accordance with Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only. I am aware of the decriminalization of peyote efforts in the US. I believe it is in the best interest for the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the US. Furthermore, this peyote initiative has created a stronger need for the Navajo Nation to advocate for the enforcement of federal regulations on peyote.

I believe the proposed resolution, with recommended revisions by the ABNDN Peyote Task Force, will further protect the rights for Navajo people to use our Azeé (peyote) in a respectful and meaningful way. I appreciate your continuous leadership during this time. I wish you the best and thank you for your time regarding this important matter for the Navajo people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lula Monroe". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Lula Monroe, District 5 Secretary
Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation

Winslow, AZ 86047
Email: monroelula56@gmail.com



A Supporting Resolution by Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation District 3 to the 24th Navajo Nation Council to Oppose the Decriminalization of Peyote (mescaline) at the State, Local Governments, and Territories in the United States (US).

WHEREAS:

1. District 3 Chapter (Tuba City, Bodaway Gap, Cameron, and Coalmine) is a local entity of Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation (ABNDN) recognized and certified with authority and responsibility to act in the best interest of its members on matters in pertaining to the protection and preservation of our sacred Azeé (Peyote).
2. The ABNDN, formerly known as the Native American Church of Navajoland (NACNL), have fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways.
3. District 3 Chapter understands Public Law 103-344 (P.L 103-344) American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only.
4. District 3 Chapter urges all states, local government, and territories in the US to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member as recognized under P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
5. District 3 Chapter recognizes the movement to decriminalize peyote (mescaline) by the state, local governments, and territories in the US directly violates P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
6. District 3 Chapter believes it is in the best interest for the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote (mescaline) efforts in the US as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

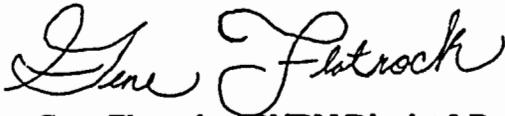
NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

1. District 3 Chapter (Tuba City, Bodaway Gap, Cameron, and Coalmine) strongly opposes the decriminalization of peyote (mescaline) and urge all states, local governments, and territories in the US to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

2. District 3 Chapter strongly opposes the extraction and synthesis of peyote (mescaline), and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived therefrom, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. District 3 Chapter hereby requests Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting in Tuba City, Arizona, at which time a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 29 in favor, and 0 opposed, and 1 abstained, on this 20th day of July 2022.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Flatrock". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gene Flatrock, ABNDN District 3 Board of Director



A Supporting Resolution by Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation District 5 to the 24th Navajo Nation Council to Oppose the Decriminalization of Peyote at the State, Local Governments, and Territories in the United States (US).

WHEREAS:

District 5 Chapter (Birdsprings, Leupp, Tolani Lake) is a local entity of Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation (ABNDN) recognized and certified with authority and responsibility to act in the best interest of its members on matters in pertaining to the protection and preservation of our sacred Azeé (Peyote).

The ABNDN, formerly known as the Native American Church of Navajoland (NACNL), have fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways.

District 5 Chapter understands Public Law 103-344 (P.L 103-344) American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only.

District 5 Chapter urges all states, local government, and territories in the US to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member as recognized under P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

District 3 Chapter recognizes the movement to decriminalize peyote (mescaline) by the state, local governments, and territories in the US directly violates P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

District 3 Chapter believes it is in the best interest for the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote (mescaline) efforts in the US as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for

ceremonial and cultural purposes.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

District 5 Chapters strongly opposes the decriminalization of peyote (mescaline) and urge all states, local governments, and territories in the US to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

District 5 Chapters strongly opposes the extraction and synthesis of peyote (mescaline), and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived therefrom, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.

District 5 Chapter hereby requests Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting in Winslow, Arizona, at which time a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 10 in favor, and 0 opposed, and 1 abstained, on this 5th day of August 2022.

David Turquoise, ABNDN District 5 President



August 8, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom It May Concern,

Our Navajo way of life is our only future in which we must protect. Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote. Much of the Navajo people who want better laws for protecting our Navajo way of life are with you. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Brooke Clark

Brooke Clark, ABNDN Member

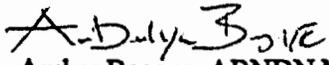
August 7, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

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Our Navajo way of life is our only future in which we must protect. Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote. Much of the Navajo people who want better laws for protecting our Navajo way of life are with you. Thank you.

Respectfully,


Amber Begaye, ABNDN Member

August 7, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom It May Concern,

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carlos Clark".

Carlos Clark, ABNDN Member

August 8, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

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Respectfully,



Tamara Talayumptewa, ABNDN Member

August 7, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'YÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

The vote in the 24th Navajo Nation Council to pass the decriminalization of peyote resolution is the undeniable wish of the people. Several ABNDN chapters and leaders presented their own supporting documents expressing their wish for the Navajo leadership to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline in the United States. The resolution will have a tremendous affect in protecting the ceremonial and cultural practices for the Navajo people.

The Navajo Nation cannot go wrong when it acts to protect the Navajo way of life. Please pass the resolution with ABNDN Peyote Task Forces revised recommendations. We must respect the laws we fought hard to pass such as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994. Thank you for your time. May the Creator continue to bless the Navajo leadership. Ahéhee.

Sincerely,



Darlene Clark, ABNDN Member

August 7, 2022

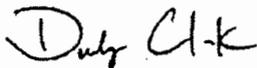
Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

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Sincerely,



Dudley Clark, ABNDN Member

August 7, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

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The Navajo Nation cannot go wrong when it acts to protect the Navajo way of life. Please pass the resolution with ABNDN Peyote Task Forces revised recommendations. We must respect the laws we fought hard to pass such as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994. Thank you for your time. May the Creator continue to bless the Navajo leadership. Ahéhee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geraldyn Clark".

Geraldyn Clark, ABNDN Member

August 7, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

The vote in the 24th Navajo Nation Council to pass the decriminalization of peyote resolution is the undeniable wish of the people. Several ABNDN chapters and leaders presented their own supporting documents expressing their wish for the Navajo leadership to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline in the United States. The resolution will have a tremendous affect in protecting the ceremonial and cultural practices for the Navajo people.

The Navajo Nation cannot go wrong when it acts to protect the Navajo way of life. Please pass the resolution with ABNDN Peyote Task Forces revised recommendations. We must respect the laws we fought hard to pass such as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994. Thank you for your time. May the Creator continue to bless the Navajo leadership. Ahéhee.

Sincerely,

Sharon Clark-Begaye

Sharon Clark-Begaye, ABNDN Member

August 7, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

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Respectfully,

Byron Clark

Byron Clark, ABNDN Member

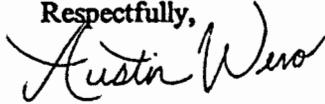
August 6, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a Navajo youth who encourages you to please pass the proposed resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote. I have witnessed many of my Navajo relatives who are concerned about our peyote medicine. I know this resolution will do two things: *1) Help ensure my relatives are able to pray and heal with the use of our sacred peyote medicine; and 2) Will create a healthier relationship in the use of our peyote medicine for our people, especially for our Navajo youth and future generations to come.* Please, I urge you to pass the proposed resolution for the Navajo Nation. Ahéhee'!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Austin Wero".

Austin Wero, ABNDN Youth

August 6, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cambria Clark-Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Cambria Clark-Robinson, ABNDN Youth

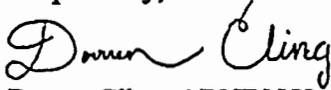
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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darren Cling". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Darren Cling, ABNDN Youth

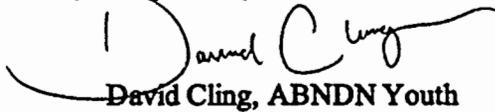
August 6, 2022

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Cling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

David Cling, ABNDN Youth

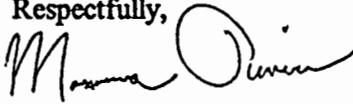
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Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'YÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maximus Oliver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "O" at the end.

Maximus Oliver, ABNDN Youth

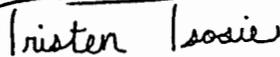
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am a Navajo youth who encourages you to please pass the proposed resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote. I have witnessed many of my Navajo relatives who are concerned about our peyote medicine. I know this resolution will do two things: *1) Help ensure my relatives are able to pray and heal with the use of our sacred peyote medicine; and 2) Will create a healthier relationship in the use of our peyote medicine for our people, especially for our Navajo youth and future generations to come.* Please, I urge you to pass the proposed resolution for the Navajo Nation. Ahéhee'!

Respectfully,



Tristen Tsosie

Tristen Tsosie, ABNDN Youth



Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation
Public Health Advisor

August 8, 2022

Re: Revised Recommendation to Legislation, RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE.

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing in support for the Navajo Nation resolution to oppose the decriminalization of peyote in the United States. However, additional revised language is still needed within the proposed resolution. Therefore, I respectfully request revisions to the proposed resolution to be in accordance with Title 17, Section 394 of the Navajo Nation Criminal Code Controlled Substance Law, and American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendment of 1994.

Recommended revisions by the ABNDN Peyote Task Force will further strengthen Navajo Nations position to oppose the decriminalization of peyote efforts in the US. It is in the best interest for the Navajo Nation to establish a strong legal stance by adhering to the federal and tribal regulations that protect our sacred Azeé (peyote) for generations to come.

In closing, I support the Navajo Nation proposed resolution with recommended revisions by the ABNDN Peyote Task Force. I appreciate your continuous efforts to protect our Navajo way of life. If there is anything more that I can do to support this important peyote initiative, please let me know. I wish you the best and thank you for your time regarding this important concern for the Navajo people.

Sincerely,

Hershel W. Clark

Hershel Walker Clark, ABNDN Public Health Advisor

Legislation # 0149-22 Comments

DLBedonie <dlbedonie@gmail.com>

Tue 8/9/2022 6:29 PM

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

Subjected amendments on page 2 of 3:

Page 2 of 3: line 5 – add “s” to “American”,

Page 2 of 3: Line 6 - delete “church members”.

Line 12 – insert “Many Federally recognized” – before Tribal members.

Line 16 – Insert – part of after the word “southwest”, delete “United States, including”.

Lorenzo Bedonie

ABNDN Board of Director, District 4

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

**RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

FOURTH YEAR 2022

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker,

The **RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

LEGISLATION #0149-22: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE. *Sponsor: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton*

Has had it under consideration and reports a **DO PASS** with no amendments.

And thereafter the legislation was referred to Health, Education, & Human Services Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Freeland, *Pro Tem Chairperson*
Resources and Development Committee of
the 24th Navajo Nation Council

Date: August 10, 2022 – Regular Meeting (Teleconference)
Location: Resources and Development Committee also called in via teleconference from their location within the boundary of the Navajo Nation.

Main Motion:

M: Wilson C. Stewart, Jr. **S:** Thomas Walker, Jr. **V:** 4-0-1 (CNV)
In Favor: Thomas Walker, Jr.; Kee Allen Begay, Jr.; Herman M. Daniels; Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.
Opposition: None
Excused: Rickie Nez, *Chairperson*
Not Voting: Mark A. Freeland, *Pro Tem Chairperson*

(NOTE: VOTE TALLY attached hereto)

RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

FOURTH YEAR 2022

ROLL CALL
VOTE TALLY SHEET

LEGISLATION #0149-22: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; OPPOSING STATES' DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE. *Sponsor:*
Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

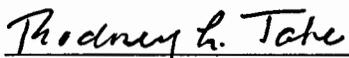
Date: August 10, 2022 – Regular Meeting (Teleconference)
Location: Resources and Development Committee also called in via teleconference from their location within the boundary of the Navajo Nation.

Main Motion:

M: Wilson C. Stewart, Jr. **S:** Thomas Walker, Jr. **V:** 4-0-1 (CNV)
In Favor: Thomas Walker, Jr.; Kee Allen Begay, Jr.; Herman M. Daniels; Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.
Opposition: None
Excused: Rickie Nez, *Chairperson*
Not Voting: Mark A. Freeland, *Pro Tem Chairperson*



Honorable Mark A. Freeland, *Pro Tem Chairperson*
Resources and Development Committee



Rodney L. Pahe, *Legislative Advisor*
Office of Legislative Services