

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0098-19

**DATE:** April 25, 2019

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF SUSTAINABLE NAVAJO GOVERNANCE AS PROPOSED BY THE NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND COMMITTING THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH OBJECTIVE TARGETS FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE-SUPPORTING ELEMENTS OF LAND, WATER, AIR AND FIRE REFLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH DINÉ BEEHAZ'ÁANII BITSÉ SILÉÍ

**PURPOSE:** Adopting the principles and practices of sustainability for Navajo governance as proposed by the Navajo Government Development Commission and committing to establishing objective targets for the protection of life-supporting elements of land, water, air and fire to be applied to all policies and actions of the Navajo Nation Government.

**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 review the proposed resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 2019  
Website Posting Time/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 4.30.19  
Eligible for Action: 5.1.19

Law & Order Committee  
Thence  
Resources & Development Committee  
Thence  
Naa'bik'íyáti' Committee

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - First Year, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

  
(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0098-19

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'  
COMMITTEES; APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE PRINCIPLES AND  
PRACTICES OF SUSTAINABLE NAVAJO GOVERNANCE AS PROPOSED BY  
THE NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND  
COMMITTING THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH OBJECTIVE  
TARGETS FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE-SUPPORTING ELEMENTS OF  
LAND, WATER, AIR AND FIRE REFLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH DINÉ  
BEEHAZ'ÁANII BITSÉ SILÉÍ

BE IT ENACTED:

**SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

**A** The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council exercising oversight authority over water, land, grazing and environment. 2 N.N.C. § 500 (C).

**B.** The Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 700.

**SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

**A.** The twelve domains of Sustainability adhere to the tenets of Navajo Fundamental law,

1 focusing on organizational and operational sustainability and sustainable stewardship to  
2 secure the rights of future generations. The principles in the twelve domains of sustainability  
3 align with the teachings of Fundamental Law expressed in 1 N.N.C § 201, “Nahasdzaán dóó  
4 yádl̨h̨il̨ nitsáhákees yil̨ hadeidiilaa, Tó dóó dził diyinii nahat’á yil̨ hadeidiila, Nl̨ch’I dóó  
5 nanse’ altaas’ éi iiná yil̨ hadediilaa, Kq’, adinídiín dóó ntl’iz náadahaniihji’ sihasin yil̨  
6 hadediilaa. Díí ts’ídá aláají nihi beehaz’áanii bitse siléi nihá’ ályaa.” The Fundamental  
7 principles of thinking, planning, life, and wisdom are the same principles at the heart of  
8 sustainability practices.

9 **B.** The Navajo Government Development Commission (Commission) adopted the  
10 Navajo Nation sustainable governance principles and practices plan, to transition toward  
11 a sustainability in governance processes and establish objective targets for the protection  
12 of life-supporting elements of land, water, air and fire.

13 **C.** To that end, the Naabik’íyáti’ Committee of the Navajo Nation Council finds it to be in  
14 the best interest of the Navajo People to adopt the following twelve (12) domains of  
15 sustainable practices and to commit to establishing objective targets and applying such  
16 principles to all programs and policies of the Navajo Nation Government. The following  
17 are the twelve domains of sustainable practices:

- 18 1. Awareness education and engagement;
- 19 2. Environmentally friendly buildings and facilities;
- 20 3. Transportation modes, infrastructures and operations;
- 21 4. Climate protection, adaption and mitigation;
- 22 5. Sustainable operations and management;
- 23 6. Waste reduction and recycling;
- 24 7. Environmentally preferable purchasing/procurement;
- 25 8. Sustainable food systems and production;
- 26 9. Sustainable energy transition;
- 27 10. Diné Language and Culture
- 28 11. Natural habitat and ecosystem; and
- 29 12. Social equity, wellness and justice.

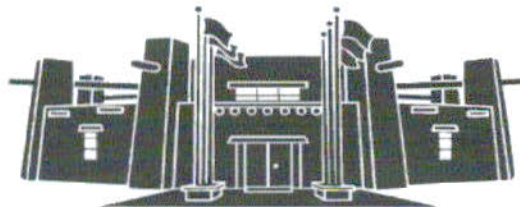


1       **SECTION THREE. RESOLVED**

2       **A.** The Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, recognizing that the  
3       principles in the twelve domains of sustainability align with the teachings of Fundamental  
4       Law expressed in 1 N.N.C § 201, “Nahasdzaán dóó yádilhił nitsáhákees yił hadeidiilaa, Tó  
5       dóó dził diyinii nahat'á yił hadeidiila, Nlch'I dóó nanse' altaas' éí iiná yił hadediilaa, Kq',  
6       adinííín dóó ntl'iz náadahaniihji' sihasin yił hadediilaa. Díí ts'ídá aláají nihi beehaz'áanii  
7       bitse siléí nihá' ályaa.” and that the Fundamental principles of thinking, planning, life, and  
8       wisdom are the same principles at the heart of sustainability practices hereby adopts the  
9       following twelve (12) domains of sustainable practices and commits to establishing objective  
10      targets and applying such principles to all programs and policies of the Navajo Nation  
11      Government. The following are the twelve domains of sustainable practices:


- 12      1. Awareness education and engagement;  
13      2. Environmentally friendly buildings and facilities;  
14      3. Transportation modes, infrastructures and operations;  
15      4. Climate protection, adaption and mitigation;  
16      5. Sustainable operations and management;  
17      6. Waste reduction and recycling;  
18      7. Environmentally preferable purchasing/procurement;  
19      8. Sustainable food systems and production;  
20      9. Sustainable energy transition;  
21      10. Diné Language and Culture  
22      11. Natural habitat and ecosystem; and  
23      12. Social equity, wellness and justice.

24      **B.** The Office of Navajo Government Development, using the resources available to it,  
25      shall develop and present to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council  
26      for its consideration and adoption, objective targets for the preservation of the life-  
27      supporting elements of land, water, air and fire to be applied to the twelve domains of  
28      sustainable practices and applying such principles to all programs and policies of the  
29      Navajo Nation Government.



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Jamie Henio  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

**FROM:**   
Edward A. McCool, Acting-Chief Legislative Counsel  
Office of Legislative Counsel

**DATE:** April 25, 2019

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF SUSTAINABLE NAVAJO GOVERNANCE AS PROPOSED BY THE NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND COMMITTING THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH OBJECTIVE TARGETS FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE-SUPPORTING ELEMENTS OF LAND, WATER, AIR AND FIRE REFLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH DINÉ BEEHAZ'ÁANII BITSÉ SILÉÍ

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

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§500, 501. 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).

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.



THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0098-19

SPONSOR: Jamie Henio

TITLE: An Action Relating To Resources And Development And NAABIK'IYATI' Committees; Approving The Adoption Of The Principles And Practices Of Sustainable Navajo Governance As Proposed By The Navajo Government Development Commission And Committing The NAABIK'IYATI' Committee To Establish Objective Targets For The Protection Of Life-Supporting Elements Of Land, Water, Air, And Fire Reflected In Accordance With Diné Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Siléi

*Date posted:* April 25, 2019 at 5:55 PM

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.: 0098-19

SPONSOR: Honorable Jamie Henio


TITLE: Relating To Resources And Development And Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Approving The Adoption Of The Principles And Practices Of Sustainable Navajo Governance As Proposed By The Navajo Government Development Commission And Committing The Naabik'iyáti' Committee To Establish Objective Targets for The Protection Of Life-Supporting Elements Of Land, Water, Air And Fire Reflected In Accordance With Diné Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Siléi

Posted: April 25, 2019 at 5:55pm

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: April 30, 2019

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	<i>1) Carol Davis, Dilkon, AZ., Community Member  2) Percy Deal  3) Ramona Begay, Navajo Women's Commissioner-Eastern Agency  4) LeTanya Thinn, Dine College Student  5) Lori Goodman, Dilkon AZ community member  6) Ed Becenti, Dine'/Navajo Grassroots Liaison</i>
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Inconclusive Comments	<i>1) Emmett Kerley</i>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Legislative Secretary  
Office of Legislative Services  
  
5-1-19 8:41am  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time



## Comment on Legislation 0098-19

Carol Davis <cjdavis\_2004@hotmail.com>

Tue 4/30/2019 12:51 AM

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

April 29, 2019

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

**RE: Comment regarding Legislation 0098-19; TITLE: An Action Relating To Resources And Development And NAABIK'İYATI' Committees; Approving The Adoption Of The Principles And Practices Of Sustainable Navajo Governance As Proposed By The Navajo Government Development Commission And Committing The NAABIK'İYATI' Committee To Establish Objective Targets For The Protection Of Life-Supporting Elements Of Land, Water, Air, And Fire Reflected In Accordance With Diné Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Siléí**

Dear 24th Navajo Nation Council:

I submit this letter to express my support for Honorable Council Delegate Jamie Henio's Legislation 0098-19.

Although the legislation is a commendable effort to support and complement a transition toward a sustainable future for our people, I do have a few suggestions intended to strengthen it's impact. The suggested revisions revolve around replacing the word "sustainable" with "regenerative" because in most cases, we would not want to simply maintain the status quo, but we would want to renew, restore, revive replenish something into a better state. This would especially apply to our economy and to our food systems.

In the twelve domains of sustainability, I would suggest the following revisions:

- combine #2 and #6 to read: "Environmentally friendly buildings and facilities that promote and accommodate waste reduction and recycling"
- Draft a new domain in place of the previous #6 to read: "Regenerative economy"
- revise #8 to read: "**Regenerative** food systems and production"
- Revise #11 to read: "Natural habitat and **regenerative** ecosystem"

It is no longer enough to strive for "sustainability" alone, we need to reverse the damage we have done to our environment and our economy by creating and producing something better that will continue to reproduce excess benefits for our communities, our cultural landscapes, our environment, and our economy.



Ahe'hee N'tsaago,  
Carol Davis, Dilkon (Navajo Nation)  
Registered Community Member  
HCR 63 Box 272, Dilkon, AZ

# Legislation 0098 - 19

Percy Deal <deal.percy@gmail.com>

Tue 4/30/2019 7:47 AM

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

The Honorable Members of the Navajo Nation Council:

Please accept the following comments regard Legislation 0098 - 19:

- On page 2 under Section C: Under the listing of domains, I like to recommend the addition of item 13. **Livestock, vegetation and water.** These three items must be carried out to maintain a healthy environments.
- On page 3 under Resolved Section B: I like to add a sentence at the very end: **And to all educational facilities on the Navajo Nation.**

With these comments I like to express my support for the legislation. Those domains are commandments which the Holy People and the Creators have instructed us to live by. Many of which we have left behind. These domains are meant for every day living at homes, among families and communities. By practicing these domains we will again be strong, resilience and rebuild sustainability for our future. The Holy Ones and the Creators will look upon us favorably and with many more blessing.

Thank you Mr. Jamie Henio and Members of the Council



# Legislation 0098-19

R Begay <begay413@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/30/2019 8:00 AM

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

Greetings,

RE: LEGISLATION NO: 0098-19 SPONSOR: Jamie Henio  
TITLE: An Action Relating To Resources And Development And NAABIK'IYATI'  
Committees; Approving The Adoption Of The Principles And Practices Of  
Sustainable Navajo Governance As Proposed By The Navajo Government  
Development Commission And Committing The NAABIK'IYATI' Committee To  
Establish Objective Targets For The Protection Of Life-Supporting Elements Of  
Land, Water, Air, And Fire Reflected In Accordance With Diné Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Silver

Please accept this email as a supporting comment in regards to the above mentioned legislation.

This is a very crucial legislation that outlines the future of our Navajo Nation and the direction that the Navajo Nation Government needs to take to restore the reverence and preservation of our land, water, air, atmosphere and lifestyle for current and future generations to see and to enjoy.

A wholehearted support is due for this legislation.

Thank you,

Ramona Begay  
Navajo Women's Commissioner - Eastern Agency  
Navajo Government Development Commissioner

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Legislation 0098-19

LeTanya Thinn <letanyart@gmail.com>

Tue 4/30/2019 11:59 AM

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

1 attachment

Legislation Support Letter\_LRThinn.pdf;

Good afternoon,

Attached is my support letter regarding LEGISLATION NO: 0098-19. Thank you.

*Ahxehee'*,

*LeTanya R. Thinn*

Biology Major – Diné College  
(505) 495-9000



April 30, 2019

**To Naabik'iyati' Committee and other residing committees and boards,**

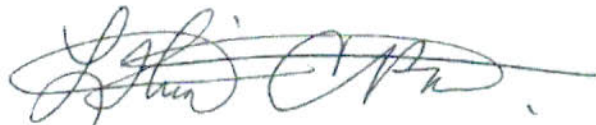
My name is LeTanya Rochelle Thinn. I am Zuni Edgewater born for the Salt People clan. My maternal grandfathers are of the Reed People clan and my paternal grandfathers are of the Holy-People-Of-The-Red-Running-Into-The-Water clan. I am from Shonto, Arizona and I am currently the Student Representative from Diné College on the Commission for Navajo Government Development in Window Rock, Arizona.

I am writing this letter in support of Legislation No: 0090-19, which was drafted by the Office of Navajo Government Development. I am in support of this legislation because it is of paramount importance to incorporate all aspects of our culture, tradition, customs, and truths, especially in our governmental processes and system. This is the only sure way to sustain, cultivate, and revitalize our identities as Diné to guide our healing process as individuals and as a nation. Understanding, comprehending, and applying my "Diné mind," as my father Dr. Wilson Aronilth, Jr. describes it, has allowed to build a strong foundation for my life and it has also made me aware of the healing that is needed on a critical level here in each and every one of our people.

Needless to say, this legislation is more than what is written in the proposed resolution. It is direct action applying our Sovereignty as a people both on an individual level and as a nation. For this reason, and much more than I can fully express in this letter, I whole-heartedly stand beside and support Legislation No: 0090-19.

Thank for your time and consideration in this very important matter. I trust and pray for your due diligence in this matter. And may the Creator bless and watch over you as leaders, as a relatives, and as growing individuals.

Ahxéhee',

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Thinn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Commissioner LeTanya Rochelle Thinn**

Dine College Student Representative – ONGD

(505)495-9000

[lthinn@dinecollege.edu](mailto:lthinn@dinecollege.edu)



# LEGISLATION NO: 0098-19; NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH PUBLIC REVIEW

Emmett Kerley <kerley.emmett@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/30/2019 12:37 PM

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

In Navajo, natural ecosystems should be promoted throughout all levels of community development. Approaches in the maintenance and encouragement of natural ecosystems creates a more sustainable relationship with the natural environment.

Rural and urban design enabling individual building projects to maximize renewable energy access, and the design and construction of commercial and residential facilities that are designed with passive solar design principles to utilize available solar access, is a feature of environmentally responsible community development. Easy access to public transport is also important, and this aspect can be extended to include provision of cycle ways and electric vehicles charging facilities.

Flexibility in transportation design can permit projects to fit a particular physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility.

Types of sustainable town planning include:

- \* Development of a Renewable Energy Policy for all communities
- \* Preparation of Local Environmental Plans
- \* Preparation of Development Control and Management Plans
- \* Preparation of Development Applications
- \* Project management of flora and fauna studies,
- \* Training programs for staff and professional training in biodiversity conservation and ecologically sustainable development.

Sincerely,

Emmett Kerley, Cameron Chapter Vice President

0098-19

Lori Goodman &lt;kiyaani@frontier.net&gt;

Tue 4/30/2019 12:55 PM

To: comments &lt;comments@navajo-nsn.gov&gt;;

April 30, 2019

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

**RE: Comment regarding Legislation 0098-19; TITLE: An Action Relating To Resources And Development And NAABIK'YATI' Committees; Approving The Adoption Of The Principles And Practices Of Sustainable Navajo Governance As Proposed By The Navajo Government Development Commission And Committing The NAABIK'YATI' Committee To Establish Objective Targets For The Protection Of Life-Supporting Elements Of Land, Water, Air, And Fire Reflected In Accordance With Diné Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Siléí**

Dear 24th Navajo Nation Council:

I submit this letter to express my support for Honorable Council Delegate Jamie Henio's Legislation 0098-19.

This legislation is a commendable effort and a start in creating a model transition toward a sustainable future for our Dine' people. The Navajo Government Development Commission is well suited to carry out this effort. Time and again we have witness isolated plans developed that have been devoid of the teachings of Fundamental Laws and ended with lost of precious Navajo Nation funds in the millions of dollars.

History has shown us that project programs developed without a standard set of guidelines and devoid of Fundamental Law's principles results in creating policies that utilize western worldview and they result in failure:

Navajo Nation lost \$3.2 million between 2005 and 2009, through the misuse of tribal discretionary funds, absconded by members of the Council (77 of the 88) and employees of the

tribe. The Navajo public has never received a report on whether or not any funds have been paid back.

The Navajo Nation gave \$30 million to the project Dine' Power Authority and no tangible outcome was realized. Again, program was created utilizing and through the lens of western worldview.

Applaud the Navajo Government Development Commission for taking on the task via Legislation 0098-19 to create the Principles and Practices of sustainable Navajo Governance.

Ahe'hee N'tsaago,  
Lori Goodman

Registered Community Member

Dilkon, Arizona



## My COMMENTS regarding Legislation 0098-19...04/30/19

Ed Becenti <rezztone@yahoo.com>

Tue 4/30/2019 8:47 PM

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

Cc: Tom Platero <tomplatero@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
Window Rock, AZ

Yá'át'ééh,

The following are talking points that can become Amendments to Legislation 0098-19:

- Adopt principles and practices of sustainability for protection of life-supporting elements of land, water, air and fire to be applied to Navajo Nation Government policies and procedures
- This legislation looks and reads essentially great for our Dine'/Navajo people who have been struggling for over 50+ years to get their simple way of life recognized, it has been long overdue and we support this as somehow a preamble, there were people putting some kind of constitution together, this would be great for them
- All humans species are CREATED EQUAL according to Navajo fundamental laws
- NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION INSERTED MADE PART OF NAVAJO FUNDAMENTAL LEGAL PHILOSOPHY so all humans are naturally inherited as part of ecosystem symbiotic
- General code is established so now create 'specific legal definition' of air, water and fire plus carbon', LEGAL DEFINITION is required
- Have EPA plus Diné College, NTU, Navajo EPA to come with legality to create STATUTES since we have the code now
- No more negotiations now with NTEC or any other on the dying COAL industry
- Legal definitions are necessary to make this legislation impleccable
- Possibly reprimand sponsors of any resolutions in context of 'circumventing legitimate decisions' by our governing body

Ed Becenti  
Dine'/Navajo Grassroots Liaison  
P.O. Box 121  
St. Michaels, AZ  
<rezztone@yahoo.com>