

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0014-21

DATE: January 27, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

PURPOSE: To support New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be appointed as the Secretary of the Interior under the President Joe R. Biden Administration.

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: 10:31pm 01-27-21
Posting End Date: 02-01-21
Eligible for Action: 02-02-21

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—THIRD YEAR, 2021

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0014-21

AN ACTION
RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING NEW
MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR,
UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).
- B. The Navajo Nation Council established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and specifically empowered the Committee to:
 - i. To review and continually monitor the programs and activities of federal and state departments and to assist development of such programs designed to serve the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation through intergovernmental relationships between the Navajo Nation and such departments.
 - ii. To coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, departments of the United States government, state legislatures and departments and county and local governments.

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1 iii. To recommend to United States departments and agencies, the states and
2 various regional agencies the appointment of individuals who, in the
3 judgment of the Committee, will fulfill the requirements of their office and
4 serve the interests of the Navajo Nation.

5 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 and 701 (A)(7)-(9).

6 C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United
7 States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.

8 D. Congresswoman Deb Haaland is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna in New
9 Mexico.

10 E. In 2006, Congresswoman Haaland earned her Juris Doctor from the University of
11 New Mexico School of Law.

12 F. Congresswoman Haaland's political career includes serving as the Vote Director for
13 Native Americans in Barack Obama's 2012 presidential re-election campaign and in
14 2015, Congresswoman Haaland was elected to a two-year term as Chair of the
15 Democratic Party of New Mexico.

16 G. In 2018, Congresswoman Haaland was elected to the United States House of
17 Representatives for the First District of New Mexico and became one of first two
18 Native American women to serve in the House of Representatives.

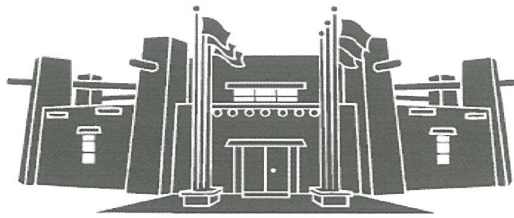
19 H. Congresswoman Haaland has close to twenty years of public service including
20 representing Native American governments, including but not limited to her Laguna
21 Pueblo and San Felipe Pueblo.

22 I. Congresswoman Haaland is and has always been a well-informed and tireless advocate
23 for United States Public Lands and Native American issues.

24 J. Congresswoman Haaland has the education, public service, and political experience
25 necessary to lead the U.S. Department of Interior in a direction that enhances and
26 protects, rather than diminishes, Native American governments and Native American
27 lands and on December 17, 2020, United States President nominated Congresswoman
28 Haaland to be appointed as first Native American Secretary of the Interior.

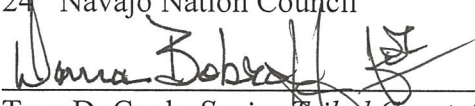
1 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 2 A. The Navajo Nation supports New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be
3 appointed and confirmed as the Secretary of the Interior under the President Biden
4 administration.
- 5 B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation
6 Speaker, and/or their designees, to advocate and support the appointment and
7 confirmation of Congresswoman Haaland as the Secretary of the Interior.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Eugenia Charles-Newton, Delegate
24th Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Troy D. Cook, Senior Tribal Court Advocate
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: January 27, 2021

**RE: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;
SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO
BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN
ADMINISTRATION**

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. However, as with any legislation, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge. Also, understand that the Speaker is authorized to refer this proposed resolution to other committees that those stated in the title.

You are advised and encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure 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.

If the proposed legislation 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. Ahe'he'.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0014-21_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Supporting New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be Appointed as Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of Interior, Under the President Joe R. Biden Administration

Date posted: January 27, 2021 at 10:31PM

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.: 0014-21

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

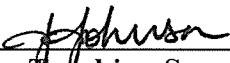
TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be Appointed as Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of Interior, Under the President Joe R. Biden Administration

Posted: January 27, 2021 at 10:31 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 01, 2021

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1) Patrice Henderson 2) Lila Crank 3) Anthony Crank 4) Ginger Sykes Torres 5) Triston Black 6) Nekesia Tulley
Comments Opposing	1) Ervin Chavez 2) Mabel C. Senger
Comments/Recommendations	<i>None</i>



Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

02/02/21 9:56 AM

Date/Time

Letter of Support for Deb Haaland

Patrice Henderson <patricewhenderson@gmail.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 4:51 PM

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

January 30, 2021

Dear Navajo Nation Council,

I am writing this letter of support for legislation 0014-21: "SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION."

As a professional Navajo woman, I have advocated the advancement of our nieces, daughters, granddaughters to pursue their dreams and aspirations. When our Native sister Deb Haaland was elected to Congress, the glass ceiling was broken and it paved the way for our young Navajo women to one day represent our people in Washington, DC. Her nomination and appointment is historic because she will be the first Native American in a Cabinet Secretary position—and Native people will finally have a Native voice in one of the highest offices in our Federal Government.

Native women carry the songs and prayers of the tribal communities. At a young age, we are taught special leadership skills to help guide our families and to serve as matriarchs for our clans. These teachings are the same teachings that Deb Haaland will carry with her as the Secretary of the Interior.

The Navajo Nation must support our Native sister. I know that she will lead this office in a balanced approach and with an open heart to listen to not only our people, but to listen and provide pragmatic solutions for all of the American people. As Navajo people, we know that the values of our Native American communities are values that have helped guide the direction of this Nation since time immemorial. Support for Deb Haaland is support for our people and our people's lifeways.

I strongly urge the members of the Navajo Nation Council to quickly pass this legislation and share our support with our congressional delegation.

Sincerely,

Patrice Henderson

0014-21

Lila Crank <lilacrank@icloud.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 4:51 PM

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

Lila Crank
Citizen of the Navajo Nation
Lila.crank@colorado.edu

I am writing in support of Legislation No 0014-21, the action of the Navajo Nation supporting the appointment of Deb Haaland as Secretary of the United States Department of Interior under the presidency of Joseph R. Biden. I strongly support this measure as tribal values are American values; her appointment will create opportunities for discourse and valuable input from Indigenous communities. Additionally, Deb as a leader is pragmatic, fair, and well-balanced in her decision making. She has shown ability to work across the aisle in a bipartisan manner.

The appointment of Deb Haaland would mean Indigenous representation in one of the highest offices of the land, representation that is beyond its due date. Indigenous voices belong in the cabinet, she is a fantastic choice it is in my strongest belief that she will create fair and open discourse.

Lila Crank

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0041-21

Anthony Crank <tony_crank@hotmail.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 4:51 PM

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

Anthony Crank
Citizen of the Navajo Nation
heyjoe28@yahoo.com

I am writing in support of Legislation No 0014-21, the action of the Navajo Nation supporting the appointment of Deb Haaland as Secretary of the United States Department of Interior under the presidency of Joseph R. Biden. I strongly support this measure as tribal values are American values; her appointment will create opportunities for discourse and valuable input from Indigenous communities. Additionally, Deb as a leader is pragmatic, fair, and well-balanced in her decision making. She has shown ability to work across the aisle in a bipartisan manner.

The appointment of Deb Haaland would mean Indigenous representation in one of the highest offices of the land, representation that is beyond its due date. Indigenous voices belong in the cabinet, she is a fantastic choice it is in my strongest belief that she will create fair and open discourse.

Anthony Crank

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Letter of Support for legislation 0014-21: "SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION."

Ginger Sykes Torres <pinguina@gmail.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 4:50 PM

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

February 1, 2021

Dear Navajo Nation Council,

I am writing in support of legislation 0014-21: "SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION."

I am a Navajo Nation citizen, a mother, a graduate of Stanford University, and an environmental consultant who has worked with Federal, State, and tribal agencies for over 15 years on environmental impact analyses and land management plans. Based on my consulting work for the Department of the Interior, I recognize the importance and historic nature of the appointment of Deb Haaland to Interior Cabinet Secretary in the Biden-Harris Administration.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were elected with the backing of Native American voters in record turnout based on their commitment to Indian Country to uphold trust responsibility to tribal nations, strengthen relationships between the United States and Indian tribes, and empower tribes to govern their own communities and make their own decisions. Deb Haaland's nomination is a first step toward advancing the Biden-Harris commitment to Indian Country.

As the Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland would oversee the caretaking of public lands and wildlife in over one-fifth of the United States and she would oversee the Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Education. This is an opportunity unlike any other in history for one of our Indigenous relatives to be a voice for the unique needs of tribal communities and students far and wide. As a Pueblo woman, Deb Haaland understands the importance of honor and respect for our earth and wildlife. Managing energy and environmental resources and uses on public lands will require balancing environmental ethos with local economic drivers and she is well suited to lead the Department of Interior with a fair and even-keeled approach. As an honorable public servant, Deb Haaland will provide pragmatic solutions for ALL American people in the management of our nation's lands.

As a mother, I would love for my daughter, and all of our daughters and strong Native women to add "Presidential Cabinet Secretary" to their dreams within reach. Deb Haaland has paved the way to Congress for our young Navajo women and with the support of the Navajo Nation Council, she will again pave the way for our children to lead one of the highest offices in the Federal Government.

The Navajo Nation must support Deb Haaland because her success is our success as Native people. I strongly urge the Navajo Nation Council to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Ginger Sykes Torres
Founder, Dine4Biden

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Ginger Sykes Torres

| Phone.

| Email: gingertorres@gmail.com

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Legislation 0014-21

Triston Black <tristonblack@outlook.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 12:27 PM

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

Yá'át'ééh nihinaat'áanii,

As a student, we are always taught to respect and honor our teachers, family, leaders, and elders. Honorable Deb Haaland is a role model for Indian Country and a strong Pueblo matriarch. We as students have had the honor to be in her presence during high school. Her motivation, teachings, and passion inspired us to help our communities and tribal people. With that, I respectfully support this legislation. Her efforts will restore Indian Country within the Department of Interior and build back better our Nation-to-Nation trust responsibilities and treaty obligations.

Axéhee'

Triston Black

Student

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Comments on Legislation 0014-21

Nekesia Tulley <tulley@unm.edu>

Mon 2/1/2021 11:49 AM

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

Cc: Daniel Tso <daniel@navajo-nsn.gov>; Carl Slater <carl@navajo-nsn.gov>; Seth Damon <sdamon@navajo-nsn.gov>;
Eugenia Charles-Newton <echarles-newton@navajo-nsn.gov>; Amber K. Crotty <acrotty@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Re: Legislation 0014-21

Dear Navajo Nation Council,

I am writing to you today urging you to support Legislation 0014-21: "SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO CONGRESSWOMAN DEB HAALAND TO BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOE R. BIDEN ADMINISTRATION."

My name is Nekesia Tulley and I am a college student at University of New Mexico seeking a bachelor's degree in anthropology. My hope is to attain a degree so that I may influence the preservation of knowledge and wisdom of our people as an anthropologist on the Navajo Nation.

I know this area of study is sometimes controversial in our community because of the cultural and traditional beliefs regarding how we interact with our sacred ancestral sites. However, as a Navajo woman I strongly believe that my upbringing, teaching and worldview can influence this profession so that it is more respectful of our Navajo traditional values. If I do not do this work, then this work will be performed by outsiders who have limited knowledge of our ways and ethical standards and they may not take our views into account.

I share this with you because my plight is similar to the work of Congresswoman Deb Haaland—and that is why I want you to support her. Deb knows the controversy and struggle she faces in leading the Department of the Interior, an agency making the tough decisions of weighing environmental and economic impacts. These decisions do not just impact tribal communities, but all communities.

We know that for nearly a century on the Navajo Nation the natural resource extractive industries have brought economic resources to our people and families—in fact, our own Navajo government was created for the purpose of negotiating and executing contracts for mining and oil development. However, we also know that tribal communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards through industry practices and public policies. This reality has created a dilemma. How do we move forward in ensuring the environmental safety of our people while addressing the economic impact to our Navajo families when we decrease our reliance on natural resource extraction and an increase our investment into renewable energy?

There are tough decisions to make, and our Nation is at a crossroads. However, I feel more confident putting my trust in a fellow Native American like Deb Haaland. She knows tribal communities and knows the impact that the Department Interior's decisions will have on our Native families. I trust that she will lead with an even-hand and that the United States will have an Interior Secretary who will make decisions with an Indigenous point of view. For too long individuals have occupied that position and they have little-to-no understanding of the needs of our tribal communities and Navajo families.

I urge our Navajo Nation Council leadership to fully support Deb Haaland's confirmation as the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Like me, she is working to include a passionate and benevolent voice into a sphere where Indigenous views have often been lacking.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,
Nekesia Tulley
Chichiltah Chapter

Email: tulleyn@unm.edu

Phone:

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0014-21

Ervin Chavez <echvz0953@outlook.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 4:52 PM

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

My name is Ervin Chavez, a member of the Navajo Nation, Nageezi Chapter President, and a 40 year advocate for the Navajo Allottees in Northwest New Mexico. My comments on proposed Navajo Council Legislation 0014-21. I was heavily involved in two major litigations involving the Department of Interior. First under Shii Shi Keyah Navajo Allottee Association VS Donald Hodel Department of Interior from 1982 to 1996. Second litigation Elouise Cobell VS Department of Interior 1996-2010. Both of these cases involved Indian Allotment owners, We advocating for production and accounting of Indian Oil and Gas royalties. At present, Navajo Allotment lands, in Eastern Agency, are part oil and gas productions resulting in IIM royalties being realized by Navajo families. This income is so important to this region of the Navajo Nation because of the lack of economy developments and now being hit with pandemic. Navajo families depend on these revenues for their daily living needs.

New Mexico Congressional Delegations, namely Senators Udall, Senator Heinrich, Representative Lujan, and Representative Deb Haaland tried to push through HB 2181 and SB 1079 placing a 30 mile buffer Zone north of Chaco Canyon National park of no Oil and Gas Developments. These areas are within t Nageezi, Huerfano, and other Navajo Chapters. This was done without any consultations with the Navajo Allottee living and ownership of these allotment lands of Northwest New Mexico. Allottees repeatedly requested for public meetings with these Congressional Delegations to no avail. Both Representatives Lujan and Haaland testified, on the Congressional floor, that they consulted with their constituents on HB 2181, when in fact they did not. The Eastern Agency allottee thanks the Navajo Nation Resources and Development Committee and Navajo Nation Council for supporting resolution on limiting a buffer zone to 5 miles.

Therefore, it is the request that Navajo Nation Council do not support proposed Navajo Council Legislation 0014-21, for the Secretary of Interior and to leave the option open for Congressional hearing. On behalf of Allottees who has concerns with Deb Haaland, as a candidate for this position and her prior actions on land issues in Chaco Canyon area, we strongly feel that she WILL NOT be objective on land issues, including Navajo allotment lands, in her decisions if appointed to Secretary of Interior. We oppose her consideration for this appointment by President Biden/Harris Administration.

Ervin Chavez,
Nageezi Community and Chapter President
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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Legislation No:_0014-21_

Wayne Senger <wlsenger@yahoo.com>

Mon 2/1/2021 4:50 PM

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

Cc:Wayne Senger <wlsenger@yahoo.com>;

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

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing in response to **Legislation No:_0014-21_ Title: An Action Relating to the Naahik'iya'ti' Committee; Supporting New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland to be Appointed as Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of Interior, Under the President Joe R. Biden Administration.**

I am a Navajo. I live in Kansas but I am also an owner / allottee from the Nageezi New Mexico area.

It has come to my attention that New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland is being recommended for appointment as Secretary of the Interior under President Joe Biden's Administration.

It has also come to my attention that she has not been responsive or supportive of local needs and resource development in my community in New Mexico. It has also come to my attention she supports the 10 mile buffer zone for petroleum development around the Chaco Culture area. I think that buffer zone is excessive and that current environmental and cultural protections are adequate.

As a result I do not feel she would be a good candidate and wish to express my objection to her appointment as Secretary of Interior.

Thank you for you consideration,

Mabel C. Senger
Navajo Allottee from the Nageezi, NM area

[Salina, KS 67401](#)

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