

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Second Year, 2024

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO HOUSE BILL 68, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CLEAR CATTLE GUARDS ON NEW MEXICAN NATIVE AMERICAN NATION, TRIBE, AND PUEBLO LANDS

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation Council, as the governing body of the Navajo Nation, is entrusted with the responsibility to safeguard the interests, rights, and traditions of the Navajo People. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- B. The Navajo Nation Council established the Naabik'iyati' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee, which is empowered to coordinate all request for information, appearances and testimony related to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 770(A), 701(A)(6).
- C. The 56th Legislature of the State of New Mexico introduced New Mexico House Bill 68, which would make a \$5,000,000 appropriation to the Department of Transportation for purposes of clearing out cattle guards on Native, Tribal and Pueblo lands within New Mexico. Exhibit A.
- D. Livestock ownership and agriculture are timeless symbols of resourcefulness, prosperity, and social status. These are gifts bestowed by Holy Ones and are central to Dine philosophy of Nizhonigo 'lina (beauty way of life). The adherence to this philosophy, identity and cultural uniqueness is maintained among the Dine people and is recognized as the core foundation of our sovereignty.
- E. Agriculture and livestock have always been key to the evolution of Navajo society, economy, and in our development as a sovereign Nation.
- F. Cattle guards act as physical barriers that prevent livestock from wandering onto roads, neighboring properties, or areas where they may cause damage or pose a risk to themselves or others.
- G. By keeping livestock within designated areas, cattle guards enhance road safety by minimizing the chances of vehicle

collisions with wandering animals. This protects both motorists and the livestock themselves.


- H. Compared to traditional gates or fencing, cattle guards can be a more cost-effective long-term solution. They eliminate the need for constant gate maintenance, reducing labor and material costs over time.
- I. Cattle guards enable vehicles, such as farm equipment or emergency vehicles, to pass through without the need to stop and open gates, saving time and increasing operational efficiency.
- J. Cattle guards facilitate the establishment of grazing areas and rotational grazing systems, allowing ranchers to control the movement of livestock across different pastures, promoting optimal forage utilization and preventing overgrazing.
- K. For the reason stated above, it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to support New Mexico House Bill 68, which would provide cleaning to cattle guards within the New Mexico area of the Navajo Nation, ensuring the safety of travelers and livestock.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby supports New Mexico House Bill 68, "Making an Appropriation to the Department of Transportation to Clear Cattle Guards on New Mexico Native American Nation, Tribe and Pueblo Lands."
- B. The Navajo Nation Council hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, the President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate in favor of New Mexico House Bill 68.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 25th Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Tse Bonito, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 13 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 8th day of February 2024.



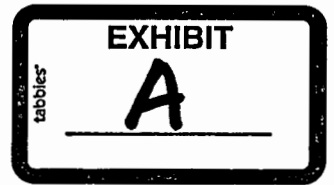
Honorable Shaandiin Parrish, Chairwoman Pro Tem
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

2/15/24

Date

Motion: Honorable Vince R. James
Second: Honorable George H. Tolth

Chairwoman Pro Tem Shaandiin Parrish not voting



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HOUSE BILL 68

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

Anthony Allison and Derrick J. Lente and D. Wonda Johnson and
Harry Garcia and Eliseo Lee Alcon

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
CLEAR CATTLE GUARDS ON NEW MEXICAN NATIVE AMERICAN NATION,
TRIBE AND PUEBLO LANDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--

A. Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is
appropriated from the general fund to the department of
transportation for expenditure in fiscal year 2025 to clear
cattle guards on New Mexican Native American nation, tribe and
pueblo lands.

B. The department of transportation shall consult
with the Native American nations, tribes and pueblos to assess
which cattle guards need clearing and prioritize those with the
greatest need and use. The department shall also obtain any

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underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 right-of-way privileges needed before clearing a cattle guard.
2 C. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining
3 at the end of fiscal year 2025 shall revert to the general
4 fund.

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NAVAJO NATION

310

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

2/8/2024

02:53:13 PM

Amd# to Amd#

New Business: Item A.

PASSED

MOT James, V

CONSENT AGENDA:#0021-24,0022-24

SEC Tolth, G

0023-24,0030-24,0032-24,0033-24,
0034-24,0035-24

Yeas : 13

Nays : 0

Excused : 3

Not Voting : 6

Yea : 13

Aseret, L
Begay, H
Begay, N
Crotty, A

Daniels, H
James, V
Jesus, B

Nez, A
Notah, N
Simpson, D

Slater, C
Tolth, G
Yanito, C

Nay : 0

Excused : 3

Curley, C

Charles-Newton, E

Yazzie, C

Not Voting : 6

Arviso, S
Claw, S

Johnson, C
Nez, R

Simonson, G

Tso, O

Presiding Speaker: Parrish, S