

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- First Year, 2015

AN ACT

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
SUPPORTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE BUREAU OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION BUDGETS AT THE
HIGH TARGET LEVEL AND ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS ABOVE THE HIGH TARGET
LEVEL

Whereas:

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §102 (A).
- B. Navajo Nation Council has the authority to create laws, resolutions, and to make statements of policy pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §164 (A).
- C. Statements of policy are written statements submitted to federal, state or local governments by a Navajo Nation official stating the official position of the Navajo Nation on proposed legislation or other action by that government. 2 N.N.C. § 100(W).
- D. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'íyáti' Committee to address statements of policy and to coordinate with federal programs. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A), (A) (9), 701 (A) (4) (2012).
- E. The Navajo Nation has a long-standing government to government relationship with the federal government and a central piece of the relationship is the trust responsibility that exists between the federal government and the Navajo Nation.
- F. The FY 2013 sequestration cuts of 5.04%, on top of an additional 8% in permanent rescissions since FY 2000, has caused immediate and severe damage to the Navajo Nation's

ability to protect human life. If sequestration cuts are not restored, the safety and living standards of tribal members living in Indian communities will further diminish.

- G. President Obama's Fiscal Year 2016 budget request of \$2.9 billion, a \$323.5 million or 12% increase from enacted Fiscal Year 2015 level, for Indian Affairs, which includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education, must be the foundation for future budget requests.
- H. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Guidance for FY 2017 Internal Budget Formulation Requirements ("Guidance") refers to planning target levels of "low," "medium," and "high," and the high target level assumes funding remains at the FY 2016 Request level with an adjustment for inflation; the Guidance provides that Bureaus and offices may submit targeted funding proposals above the High Target level to advance Administration priorities. See Exhibit A.
- I. The Navajo Nation supports the FY 2017 funding planning high target level and additional proposals above the high target level to support the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education.

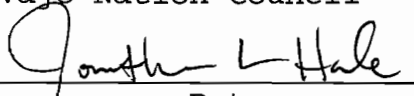
Therefore Be It Resolved:

- A. The Navajo Nation supports the Fiscal Year 2017 budget request to include the high planning target level and additional proposals above the high target level for Indian Affairs; and for the U.S. Department of the Interior to pursue no other level than the high level, with additional proposals above the high target level, due to the extreme needs of the Navajo People.
- B. The Navajo Nation urges President Obama's Administration to support the Navajo Nation's request for Fiscal Year 2017 as any lower funding request will defeat the position of the current Administration's support of Indian nations and the promises made to Tribal leaders.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 20 in favor and 0 opposed, this 19th day of May 2015.

Jonathan L. Hale, Pro Tem Speaker
Navajo Nation Council


Date
May 19, 2015

Motion: Honorable Mel R. Begay
Second: Honorable Davis Filfred