RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Third Year, 2021

AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; REQUESTING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO REMOVE THE NAME OF CHRISTOPHER "KIT" CARSON FROM ALL MONUMENTS, STATE PARKS, GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, HIGHWAYS AND STREETS WITHIN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS:

A. Navajo Nation 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. § 110(W). Navajo Nation statements of policy must be reviewed and approved by resolution of the appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation Council. *See* 2 N.N.C. § 164(A).

B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee 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) and 701(A)(6).

C. The Navajo people have continuously lived in the southwest since time immemorial, but in 1863, Christopher ("Kit") Carson, a colonel of the First New Mexico Volunteers, led a formal campaign and destructive war against the Navajo. Carson and his troops terrorized the Navajo people by burning crops, destroying homes, and slaughtering and killing livestock.

D. In 1863, Kit Carson and his troops, under the direction of General James Carleton, rounded up and forcibly removed approximately 8,000 Navajos from their ancestral lands and imprisoned them in a concentration camp known to the Navajo as "Hwéeldi" in Bosque Redondo (Fort Sumner).

E. Navajos call the forced march of over 300 miles from their ancestral lands to Hweedli as the "Long Walk" or "Trail of Tears". On the forced march, more than two-hundred Navajos died from adverse weather, illness, exhaustion, and the brutality of Carson and his troops.

F. While imprisoned at Fort Sumner, Navajos experienced slavery, starvation, prostitution, and disease. It is estimated that between 1864 and 1868 more than two thousand Navajos died at Fort Sumner. Kit Carson's troops placed decedent's remains in unmarked graves and prohibited Navajos from following their traditional burial practices.

G. Because of the brutal treatment of the Navajo people under the direction of Kit Carson, the Navajo Nation strenuously objects to any and all memorialization of Kit Carson, including the erection of monuments and the naming of parks, government buildings, highways, roads, etc. in his honor.

H. The Navajo Nation calls on the State of New Mexico to cease the naming of parks, government buildings, highways, roads, etc. in Kit Carson's honor and specifically requests that the State of New Mexico immediately rename Kit Carson Park and Kit Carson Cemetery in Taos, New Mexico.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

A. The Navajo Nation hereby requests the State of New Mexico to immediately remove the name of Christopher "Kit" Carson from all governmental properties, including monuments, parks, highways, streets, etc. in the State of New Mexico, specifically including Kit Carson Park and Kit Carson Cemetery in Taos, New Mexico.

B. The Navajo Nation hereby further requests that the State of New Mexico immediately cease naming governmental properties, including monuments, parks, highways, streets, etc. in the State of New Mexico in honor of Christopher "Kit" Carson.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 24th 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 00 Opposed, on this 18th day of November 2021.

Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Nov 25, 2021
Date

Motion: Honorable Raymond Smith, Jr.
Second: Honorable Pernell Halona

Chairman Seth Damon not voting

Amd# to Amd#	Consent to Agenda;	PASSED
MOT Smith	Legislations: 0194-21, 0209-21,	
SEC Halona, P	0213-21, 0215-21, 0216-21,	
	0217-21, 0221-21, 0235-21...	

Yeas : 20 **Nays : 0** **Excused : 1** **Not Voting : 2**

Yea : 20

Begay, E	Crotty	James, V	Tso, E
Begay, K	Daniels	Nez, R	Tso, O
Begay, P	Freeland, M	Slater, C	Walker, T
Brown	Halona, P	Smith	Wauneka, E
Charles-Newton	Henio, J	Tso, C	Yellowhair

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

Yazzie

Not Voting : 2

Tso, D Stewart, W

Presiding Speaker: Damon