

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0116-17

DATE: March 30, 2017

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF HONORABLE NEIL GORSUCH TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, supports the nomination of the Honorable Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court of the United States and calling on the Navajo Nation's congressional representatives to support Judge Gorsuch's nomination.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 5 Notah
Website Posting Time/Date: 4:30pm 3/30/2017
Posting End Date: 4/4/2017
Eligible for Action: 4/5/2017

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Third Year, 2017

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0116-17

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE
NOMINATION OF HONORABLE NEIL GORSUCH TO THE UNITED
STATES SUPREME COURT

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee. 2 N.N.C. § 700.
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee has the power 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.” 2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(8).
- C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee has the power to “recommend to the United States departments and agencies, the states and various regional agencies the appointment of individuals who, in the judgment of the Committee, will fulfill the requirements of their office and serve the interests of the Navajo Nation.” 2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(9).
- D. Honorable Neil Gorsuch is the U.S. President's nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States and currently sits on the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, a court that includes the portion of the Navajo Nation which lies in New Mexico.
- E. Native Americans inhabited North America since time immemorial; however, the United States recognized Native Americans as citizens in 1924 with the passage of the Indian

1 Citizenship Act, Approved June 2, 1924, Sixty-Eighth Congress, 8 U.S.C., Sec. 1401(b)
2 and it was not until 1965 that Native Americans were provided the right to vote through
3 the passage of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C. §§ 10101 – 10702.

4 F. The Navajo Nation has a long history of legal disputes being decided in U.S. courts,
5 including such matters as taxation, trust responsibility and mismanagement and
6 trademark infringement.

7 G. Honorable Neil Gorsuch, as he stated in his testimony, is familiar with cases for Native
8 Americans seeking to protect tribal lands and has tried to treat all who come to court
9 fairly and with respect.

10 H. The Navajo Nation, with its 300,000 or more citizens and a large voting population, ask
11 only to be treated fairly and with respect in legal issues that come before the Supreme
12 Court of the United States.

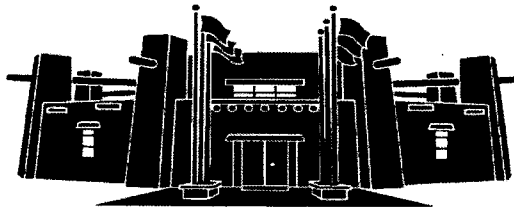
13 I. The Navajo Nation courts coined the phrase “words are sacred and never frivolous in
14 Navajo thinking,” so too Honorable Gorsuch stated his mentor, Justice Antonin Scalia,
15 reminded people “that words matter, that the judge’s job is to follow the words that are
16 the law, not replace them with words that aren’t;” the Navajo Nation encourages this
17 principle.

18 J. Honorable Gorsuch’s experience in 60 cases before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals
19 involving tribal issues provides him with a background that is needed on the Supreme
20 Court of the United States.

21
22 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**


23 A. The Navajo Nation supports the nomination of the Honorable Neil Gorsuch to the
24 Supreme Court of the United States.

25 B. The Navajo Nation calls on its Congressional representatives to support the nomination
26 of the Honorable Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court of the United States.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. LoRenzo C. Bates
23rd Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Levon B. Henry, Chief Legislative Counsel
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: March 30, 2017

SUBJECT: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;
SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF HONORABLE NEIL GORSUCH
TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

Pursuant to your request, attached is the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet. Based on existing law, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. However, as with all legislation, it is subject to review by the courts in the event of a challenge.

The Office of Legislative Council confirms the appropriate review is with the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 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).

Please review the proposed resolution to ensure it is drafted to your satisfaction. If this proposed resolution is acceptable to you, please sign it where it indicates "Prime Sponsor", and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services for the assignment of a tracking number and referral to the Speaker.

If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, or if you have further questions, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. You may contact me at (928) 871-7166. Thank you.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0116-17_____ SPONSOR: LoRenzo C. Bates

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyati' Committee; Supporting the Nomination of Honorable Neil Gorsuch to the United States Supreme Court

Date posted: March 30, 2017 at 4:30pm

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) 871-7590

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.

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**THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

LEGISLATION NO.: 0116-17

SPONSOR: Honorable LoRenzo C. Bates

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyati' Committee; Supporting the Nomination of Honorable Neil Gorsuch to the United States Supreme Court

Posted: March 30, 2017 at 4:30 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: April 4, 2017

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	<i>1. Vern R. Lee</i>
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Inclusive Comments	<i>None</i>



Policy Analyst
Office of Legislative Services

4/5/17 8:30am
Date/Time

0116-17

vernrllee@aol.com

Mon 4/3/2017 8:23 AM

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

LEGISLATION NO: _0116-17_____ SPONSOR: LoRenzo C. Bates

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyati' Committee; Supporting the Nomination of

Honorable Neil Gorsuch to the United States Supreme Court

This is one most logical smart thing the Council will do. Judge Gorsuch is mainstream as anyone can get. I fully support this legislation.

Vern R. Lee

Fruitland, NM

505-635-3249

Sent from Windows Mail