

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0255-23

DATE: November 22, 2023

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. CO-85-23 (AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 26 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS)

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will override the President's veto of CO-85-23

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

5-DAY BILL/HOLD PERIOD
Website Posting Time/Date 5:00 PM; 11-28-23
Posting End Date: 12-03-23
Eligible for Action: 12-04-23

Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – FIRST YEAR, 2023

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5
6 (Sponsor)

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0255-23

9
10 AN ACTION

11 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION
12 COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF
13 NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. CO-85-23 (AN ACT
14 AMENDING TITLE 26 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO ALLOW FOR
15 VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS)

16
17 BE IT ENACTED:

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19 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 20 A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and enacts the
21 statutory laws of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102 and 164 (A).
22 B. Resolutions enacting new law, or amending existing laws, are subject to veto by the
23 President of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(10) and (11).
24 C. The Navajo Nation Council has the authority to override a resolution vetoed by the
25 Navajo Nation President through introduction of "veto legislation" requiring a two-
26 thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 1005
27 (C) (11).
28 D. Veto legislation shall be submitted to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee before
29 consideration by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(17).
30

1 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 2 A. Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 was passed by the Navajo Nation Council and
3 certified on October 17, 2023. The resolution, attached as **EXHIBIT 1**, is entitled,
4 "AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, RESOURCES
5 AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND
6 THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 26 OF THE NAVAJO
7 NATION CODE TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER
8 MEETINGS".
- 9 B. The Navajo Nation President vetoed Resolution No. CO-85-23 on November 3,
10 2023, and provided a memorandum, attached as **EXHIBIT 2**, explaining his veto
11 decision. The Navajo Nation Council does not agree with the President's reasons for
12 his veto decision.
- 13 C. Contrary to what is stated in the President's veto memorandum, passage of
14 Resolution No. CO-85-23 authorizes each Chapter to choose whether or not the
15 Chapter will allow virtual attendance at meetings. Resolution No. CO-85-23 does
16 **not** require any Chapter to allow virtual attendance.
- 17 D. In addition, Resolution No. CO-85-23 provides each Chapter with the autonomy to
18 adopt their own Virtual Meeting Policy and exercise their local governance authority
19 to address issues such as meeting quorum, meeting attendance, and community
20 engagement.
- 21 E. The Navajo Nation Council continues to believe in the need for Resolution No. CO-
22 85-23 to empower Chapters with an additional resource to address each Chapter's
23 local needs.

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25 **SECTION THREE. OVERRIDING VETO**

26 The Navajo Nation Council hereby overrides the Navajo Nation President's veto of
27 Resolution CO-85-23.

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SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this veto override shall be as provided for in 2 N.N.C. §221 (A) and (B).



CO-85-23

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FIRST YEAR, 2023

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 26 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the responsibility to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments to the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §§ 600(A) and 601(B) (14).
- B. The Resources and Development Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council with oversight authority over Navajo Nation Chapters. 2 N.N.C. §§ 500(A) and 501(C) (1).
- C. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the responsibility to review legislation requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A) (9) and 701(A) (3).
- D. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the authority to review and approve amendments to Navajo Nation laws. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102(A) and 164(A).
- E. The Local Governance Act, 26 N.N.C. §§ 1, *et seq.*, "may be amended by the Navajo Nation Council subject to approval of a majority of all chapters of the Navajo Nation; or this Act may be amended by referendum vote of a majority of all chapters as set forth in 11 N.N.C., Navajo Nation Election Code." 26 N.N.C. § 1(E).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. "The purpose of the Local Governance Act [Act] is to recognize governance at the local level. Through adoption of this Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to chapters governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo law, including custom and tradition." 26 N.N.C. § 1(B) (1).

- B. "Enactment of the Local Governance Act allows Chapters to make decisions over local matters. This authority, in the long run, will improve community decision making, allow communities to excel and flourish, enable Navajo leaders to lead towards a prosperous future, and improve the strength and sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Through adoption of this Act, Chapters are compelled to govern with responsibility and accountability to the local citizens." 26 N.N.C. § 1(B)(2).
- C. The Local Governance Act "may be amended by the Navajo Nation Council subject to approval of a majority of all chapters of the Navajo Nation[.]" 26 N.N.C. § 1(E).
- D. In 2020, the Navajo Nation was forced to quickly enact emergency measures to mitigate the deadly spread of the Coronavirus pandemic which has caused 84,206 positive COVID-19 cases and 2,162 COVID-19 related deaths, to date, on the Navajo Nation. These emergency measures included the enactment of the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and underlying Public Health Orders including, but not limited to, employees working from home, the shutting down of government offices and non-essential business, public gathering limits, mask mandates, closing borders to visitors and enacting curfews.
- E. To ensure that the Navajo Nation's 110 Chapters could continue to operate and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic in their communities without violating Public Health Orders, including stay-at-home orders and public gathering limits, the Navajo Nation Council enacted numerous resolutions, including CAP-19-20, CJY-66-20, CJY-65-20, CJN-36-20, CJA-01-22, etc., which temporarily allowed Chapter members to attend and participate at Chapter meetings, including, Chapter Subcommittees and Community Land Use Plan Planning meetings, meetings using virtual telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.
- F. In 2021 and 2022, the Navajo Nation slowly began to open up government offices. Meeting and conducting the business of the Nation was done in person with certain limitations and safeguards in place, especially after the COVID-19 vaccine became available. During this time period, many Chapters moved to hybrid-style meetings, allowing virtual attendance by Chapter members, delegates, presenters, government officials and the public.

- G. Chapters and Chapter members were provided a unique opportunity to use virtual meetings, which moved to hybrid in-person and virtual meetings, to continue the necessary and important work of their chapters and communities. The use of virtual meetings was not only effective, but provided more opportunities for Chapter members to participate, as well as to provide enhanced transparency to the public.
- H. On June 15, 2023, Dr. Buu Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation and the Commission on Emergency Management issued CEM-23-06-15, deactivating the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and returning government operations to pre-COVID-19 status.
- I. Many Chapters and Chapter members have shown support for a permanent change to Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to allow chapter members to attend and participate at chapter meetings through virtual methods, including audio and/or video teleconferencing.
- J. This amendment to Title 26 will permit each Chapter to decide what type of attendance will be allowed at its Chapter meetings—in person or hybrid/virtual. The Chapters are to make the decision by Chapter resolution or referendum.

SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 26 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE

The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

TITLE 26. NAVAJO NATION LOCAL GOVERNANCE ACT
Chapter 1. Navajo Nation Chapters
Subchapter 1. Generally

* * * *

§ 2. Definitions

* * * *

- 5. "Attendance" means to be present either in person or through virtual methods.

* * * *

35. "Virtual" or "virtually" means remote access through an audio or video conferencing platform. Chapter meetings may be held virtually, or a combination of virtual and in-person. Any reference to Chapter meeting throughout this Act includes the authorization to hold virtual or a combination of virtual and in-person meetings.

36. "Virtual Attendance" means that a person is not physically present at a meeting, but is still able to participate in the meeting, in a manner similar to those physically present, by means of an audio and/or video conferencing platform. Voting through Virtual Attendance shall be subject to such voter's chapter registration being verified by the Chapter Secretary, or their designee, prior to the final vote tally as set forth in virtual/hybrid attendance policies and procedures adopted by Chapter resolution or referendum.

* * * *

Chapter 2. Chapter Government
Subchapter 5. Navajo Nation Chapters, Officials and
Administration--Generally

* * * *

§ 1002. Meetings; meeting notice requirement; compensation of
Chapter officials

* * * *

C. Compensation of Chapter officials.

* * * *

2. A Chapter meeting claim form signed only by the claimant shall be attached to each of the regularly scheduled Chapter meeting reports filed by the Chapter secretary/treasurer with the Chapter Government Development Department, Division of Community Development, or if applicable, by the Chapter Administration.

* * * *

c. No Chapter official shall be compensated for a Chapter meeting unless he or she was in official attendance, either in person or virtually, at that meeting; and

* * * *

§ 1003. Order of business

* * * *

- B. All Chapter meetings require a quorum of twenty-five (25) registered Chapter members to be in attendance, either in person or virtually, to conduct official Chapter business. Chapters, by Chapter resolution or referendum, are to state whether their Chapter meetings are to be conducted in person or with virtual/hybrid participation. Such Chapter resolution or referendum shall include hybrid/virtual attendance participation policies and procedures. Chapters, whether governance-certified or not, may amend the quorum requirement, based upon models and procedural regulations adopted by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. Adoption of an amended quorum requirement requires approval by Chapter ballot measure in accordance with 11 N.N.C. §§ 401-408.

* * * *

SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

- A. The provisions of this Act shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221(B) and 26 N.N.C. § 1(E), which establishes that Title 26 amendments passed by the Navajo Nation Council and signed by the President of the Navajo Nation shall not be effective at any Chapter until approved by a majority of all 110 Chapters of the Navajo Nation.
- B. Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date the President signs this legislation or the Navajo Nation Council overrides a Presidential veto of this legislation, Navajo Nation Chapters shall submit a paper-copy of their Chapter resolution approving or disapproving these Title 26 amendments to the Chief Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Services, in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona).
- C. The end date for the submission of Chapter resolutions shall be either:
1. 180 days from the date the Navajo Nation President signs this legislation pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B);

2. If the President does not act within ten (10) days after the Speaker's certification of this legislation pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(10)(12), 180 days from the date the President's ten days expire; or
3. 180 days from the date that the Navajo Nation Council overrides a Presidential Veto of this legislation pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(11).

SECTION FIVE. CODIFICATION

The provisions of this resolution that amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

SECTION SIX. SUPERSEDING AND SAVING CLAUSES .

If any portion of this Act is determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court or by a District Court of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 25th 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 15 in Favor, and 03 Opposed, on this 17th day of October 2023.



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council

10/24/2023

Date

Motion: Honorable Shaandiin Parrish
Second: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

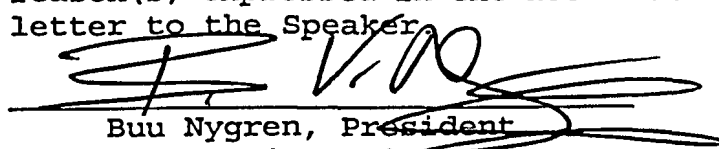
Speaker Crystalyne Curley not voting

ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I, hereby, sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(10), on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Buu Nygren, President
Navajo Nation

2. I, hereby, veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(11), on this 3 day of NOVEMBER, 2023 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.



Buu Nygren, President
Navajo Nation

NAVAJO NATION

259

Navajo Nation Council Fall Session

10/17/2023
03:30:38 PM

Amd# to Amd#
MOT Parrish, S
SEC Charles-Newton,
Legislation 0202-23: Amending
Title 26 of the Navajo Nation
Code to Allow for Virtual
Attendance at Chapter Meetings

PASSED

Yeas : 15 Nays : 3 Excused : 3 Not Voting : 2

Yea : 15

Arviso, S	Daniels, H	Notah, N	Tolth, G
Begay, H	James, V	Parrish, S	Tso, O
Begay, N	Johnson, C	Simpson, D	Yanito, C
Damon, S	Nez, R	Slater, C	

Nay : 3

Nez, A	Jesus, B	Charles-Newton, E
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Excused : 3

Claw, S	Crotty, A	Yazzie, C
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Not Voting : 2

Aseret, L	Simonson, G
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Presiding Speaker: Curley, C



The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGR**
Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTOYA** VICE PRESIDENT



November 3, 2023

Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
Office of the Speaker
Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: CO-85-23, An Action Relating to the Law and Order Committee Resources and Development Committee, Naabik'iyati Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings.

Dear Honorable Delegates of the 25th Navajo Nation Council:

Pursuant to the power granted by the Navajo People, I am exercising my veto authority in Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23. As amended, this legislation has the potential to make permanent amendments to Title 26 that would allow for chapter officials and chapter membership to attend chapter meetings by virtual appearance.

First, as elected leaders, we hold a sacred duty to serve. An important part of being a servant is allowing those who have elected us to office to voice their concerns and issues in our personal presence. This personal presence and engagement of our tribal leaders with their constituents at open meetings allows for meaningful, thoughtful and collaborative debate, which allows everyone to work toward a resolution. Virtual attendance diminishes and undermines the personal involvement that leaders have with their voters and community members.

Second, it is encouraging to hear that chapter members are becoming more involved and participating in local matters. However, if chapters allow for virtual attendance of chapter members, chapters should at a minimum operate under a basic and uniform set of procedures. These procedures should address how callers will be screened and how verification of the identity of the chapter member will take place for voting purposes. Important issues are discussed at local level that have deep daily impacts and consequences on community members. Chapter meetings allow community members to engage in these debates and discussions personally with those they have elected to office. Again, virtual attendance undermines this.



The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*
Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTOYA** *VICE PRESIDENT*

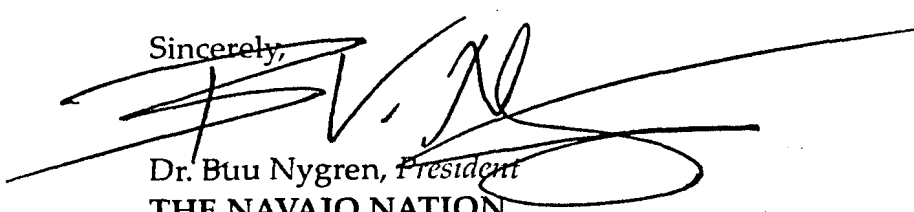
Based on the reading of the resolution and the public comments, one issue appears to be obtaining a quorum. Chapter officials are encouraged to address the quorum issue at the chapter level. Another issue appears to be community engagement. Chapter leaders are encouraged to come up with ways to encourage community members and voters to engage in government and local matters. We should be asking ourselves, "What are we doing to engage our community members in the local governance process?"

Further, if community members are not interested in participating in local matters, perhaps this opens the door to discussions on government reform at the local level. Is there a better form of government? Virtual attendance does not fix these issues.

Lastly, I recognize that streaming chapter meetings over the Internet has allowed for more transparency and participation from the community. Chapter officials are highly encouraged to continue streaming their meetings online if it is within their budgets and capacity to do so.

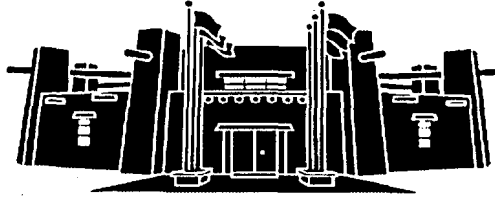
I look forward to having insightful discussions on how to improve local governance.

Sincerely,



Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Office of Legislative Counsel
Telephone: (928) 871-7166
Fax No.: (928) 871-7576



Honorable Crystalyne Curley
Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. Vince R. James, Council Delegate
25th Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Loya M. Honaghaahnii Henderson, Attorney
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: November 22, 2023

SUBJECT: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. CO-85-23 (AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 26 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO ALLOW FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS)

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. 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 ensure that his particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0255-23_

SPONSOR: Vince R. James

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 (An Act Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings)

Date posted: November 28, 2023 5:00 PM

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

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.: 0255-23

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

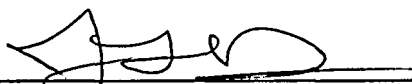
TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 (An Act Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings)

Posted: November 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: December 03, 2023

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1) Dellard Curley 2) Shane Johnson 3) Rita Bia 4) Marcarlo Roanhorse
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Comments/Recommendations	<i>None</i>



**Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services**

December 04, 2023 8:15 AM

Date/Time

Support for Legislation 0255-23 - Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto

Dellard Curley <dcurley@navajochapters.org>

Tue 11/28/2023 8:22 PM

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

Navajo Nation Council Delegates,

I am writing to express our organization's unwavering support for Legislation 0255-23, which seeks to override the Navajo Nation President's veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23. We firmly believe that this legislation not only represents the collective voice of the people but also stands as a crucial step towards empowering local governments on the Navajo Nation.

The essence of democracy lies in the empowerment of local communities, and Legislation 0255-23 is a commendable effort to ensure that our Chapter houses have the autonomy to decide their level of participation in local matters. We strongly advocate for the principle that all members should have a voice in these decisions, given that their registration directly contributes to the funds budgeted for each chapter.

Moreover, we emphasize the importance of granting Chapter houses and communities the right to determine how they cast votes and verify residency. Local governance should be flexible and adaptable to the unique needs and preferences of each community, and this legislation acknowledges that fundamental principle.

The provision within the legislation allowing for virtual attendance at Chapter meetings is a forward-thinking approach, recognizing the evolving nature of communication and technology. This change not only facilitates greater participation but also ensures that community members who may face geographical or other constraints can still contribute to the decision-making process.

We are particularly concerned about the potential infringement on local government autonomy posed by the presidential veto. It is our firm belief that local governments should be allowed to operate in a manner that best suits the needs of their constituents, and the veto power directly contradicts this principle.

In conclusion, we urge you to support Legislation 0255-23 and override the Navajo Nation President's veto. This legislation reflects the democratic ideals of local government empowerment, ensuring that the voice of the people is not only heard but also respected in matters that directly impact their communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to witnessing the continued progress and empowerment of our local governments through the enactment of this legislation.

Thank you,

Dellard Curley

Ts'ah Bii Kin Chapter Secretary/Treasurer
N.O.S.T. Secretary
USMC Veteran

"The Art of communication is the language of leadership" ,James Hurries

*"Sernper Fi, Always Faithful" ,USMC Motto. *

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[EXTERNAL]0038-22

Shane Johnson

Fri 12/1/2023 1:16 AM

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

In support of legislation 0255-23 in regards to virtual presence at local chapters. . . I strongly agree in this legislation. Tsaille /Wheatfields chapter is a far place to walk or get a ride too. Whereas Tsaille community is vibrant among Dine College students. Our chapter is in Whearfields which I feel defeats the purpose of being democratic and vibrant. I support this legislation My delegate Mr. Carl Slater. . . please vote GREEN!

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Reply all | Delete Junk |

Legislation 0255-23



Rita Bia
Fri 12/1, 10:29 AM
comments

Reply all |

Inbox

I am from Sawmill chapter, Sawmill Az. I Am In Support of the Over-ride of this legislation.

Thank you.

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Supporting Legislation 0255-23: Overriding The Navajo Nation President's Veto on NNC Resolution No. CO-85-23

Marcarlo Roanhorse

Fri 12/1/2023 7:26 PM

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

Ya'at'eeh Honorable Navajo Nation Speaker Curley and Honorable 25th Navajo Nation Council,

My name is Marcarlo Roanhorse and I am a registered voter of Ganado Chapter. I serve in the capacity as the Ganado Chapter President and the Fort Defiance Agency Council Secretary. I'm submitting a supportive comment to ask the 25th Navajo Nation Council to override the Navajo Nation President's Veto on Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23.

On a local level, many chapters are struggling to obtain and maintain a voting quorum of 25 or more registered members at our local chapter meetings. My observed observation on why local chapters are struggling to obtain or maintain quorum are as follows:

1. Before March 2020, many local Chapter meeting participants were primarily elderly folks. Many of the elderly folks attended the chapter meetings and voiced the concerns for their children, their families/relatives and themselves. The way I observed it was that families sent their "spokesperson", the elderly folks, to represent them while they attended school, went to work, tended to their families & livestock and so on and so forth.
2. A lot of elderly folks didn't mind representing their children and grandchildren. It gave elderly people a sense of need and authority to represent their families and relatives in the form of taking actions and voting for what they believed was best for everyone.
3. After March 2020, COVID disrupted our method of conducting business on a local level and this deadly disease stole many of our elderly folks who actively attend chapter meetings. Not only did it take the lives of many of our elders, it placed fear in the eyes of many families and elderly people. The trauma that our people faced causing families to safeguard their elderly people. COVID is no longer considered a pandemic but a lot of families keep their elderly people at home.
4. During this Pandemic Era, the Navajo Nation Leadership looked and evaluated what was best for the Navajo People. Former Navajo Nation President Nez and the 24th Navajo Nation Council saw that it was vital to maintain the local governance authorities and passed a law to allow local Chapters the ability to offer the option of "Virtual and Telephone" participation.
5. Even though the law reduced the quorum to "3" voting members, Ganado Chapter was able to reach up to 50 participants, virtually/telephonically, allowing registered voters to participate from:
 1. The comfort of their homes while making dinner for their families.
 2. While livestock owners and farmers tended to their animals and fields.
 3. While the youth were living off the reservation obtaining an education and listening to what their parents and grandparents told them to do.
 4. While attending their medical appointments 30 to 100 miles away from their community.
 5. Traveling and living their lives.
 6. Or simply being human and meeting the demands of their employer.
6. When Navajo Nation President Nygren lifted the public health order, it also ceased the option of virtual participation for the voters to participate in local chapter meetings. Navajo Nation President Nygren didn't cease the virtual option, the law did. The way the law was written was a temporary solution.
7. Now that Virtual participation is not an option, it has taken the ability away from all the hard working people who HAD the ability to participate in local chapter meetings virtually.

This legislation is giving chapter members the ability to participate in local chapter meetings virtually. Amending Title 26 will align with the vocalized vision of advancing the Navajo Nation government. It disappointed me that Navajo Nation President Nygren vetoed the whole legislation without giving the people the ability to voice their stance. This legislation requires each chapter (110 chapters) to provide a resolution stating if that chapter would accept or decline the virtual option for their constituents; for local involvement and actions. This legislation is only amending a section of Title 26 to state "virtual" participation. Title 26 is old and it needs to be revitalized to meet the demands of modern society. It met the needs of our forefathers back then but we're advancing with technology. It talked about increasing local involvement, this is one working method that everyone witnessed. Let the people act on it, it would still have to go before the people for a referendum. If we truly want to hear the voices of the people and their stance, let them vote on it. President Nygren took that power away the moment he exercised his veto authority.

I'm listening to what my constituents are telling me. How Ganado thinks and how we've conducted our hybrid meetings may not work for other chapters but it attracted more involvement in local governance. We are trying our best to provide accommodations for our constituents to participate in local chapter meetings. Ganado has a virtual option for members to "listen in only" so they can hear what we're doing locally. Ganado Chapter is working on a "Virtual Meeting Policy" with the additional roles and responsibilities of Chapter Officials to ensure valid registered voters and methods of authenticating virtual participating members. Give Ganado the ability to exercise its authority as an LGA certified chapter. Ganado is trying and we are constantly looking at new ideas and methods.

Ganado Chapter is currently getting a quorum of 25-27 people attending. Pre-pandemic, use to get 35+ people to participate. We've tired to move our meetings to weekends and moved the time around but it didn't work. If Ganado is fortunate to barely make quorum, it makes me wonder and feel for all the smaller chapters who are struggling. I know chapters have the option to reduce its quorum through referendum but Ganado doesn't want to go that route. Ganado Chapter feels it's important to keep our quorum at 25 voting members to ensure we have adequate input from more voting members; not less. I know we can get 25+ members to attend, but we need the option to have virtual participation. I know some delegates openly state that their chapters/chapter officials aren't accountable and can't work with their council delegate, not Ganado. Ganado Chapter gets along and has a strong working relationship with our Delegate, Honorable Council Delegate Vince R. James. I'm sure Honorable James hears what I'm hearing, why else would he have dropped the initial legislation and now the override legislation?

Ahe'hee Honorable 25th Navajo Nation Council for taking the time to read my supportive comment. I encourage you all to support and vote GREEN on legislation No. 0255-23. God bless you all and keep up the hard work.

Sincerely,

--

Marcarlo Roanhorse, President
GANADO CHAPTER

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THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0255-23

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 (An Act Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings)

Posted: November 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM


5 DAY Comment Period Ended: December 03, 2023

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1) Fannie LookingGlass
Comments Opposing	None
Comments/Recommendations	None


Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services

December 11, 2023 3:00 PM
Date/Time

↻ Reply all | ▾  Delete Junk | ▾ ...



[EXTERNAL]0255-23



Fannie <flokingglass@yahoo.com>

Tue 12/5, 10:13 PM

comments ▾

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Inbox

I am a registered voter and I fully support this legislation to overturn the veto of President Buu Nygren. The Navajo Nation is spread out with voters from a chapter living in border towns as well as in other states. Presently, only local people attend chapter meetings, if there is a quorum. There are times when meetings had to be rescheduled as a result of no quorum. During Covid when we had teleconference meetings, we always had a quorum. We even had people from Denver and California call into the meetings. I myself even called in from Montana when we were on travel. Burnham Chapter passed a resolution in support of virtual meetings. We do not know what the future holds but currently tuberculosis is spreading in Colorado. Because of fast growing resurgence of diseases which were practically eliminated are resurfacing plus new diseases, it is imperative that the Navajo Nation be prepared to continue to operate despite these diseases. It would be better to have a plan beforehand rather afterwards.

I am asking my delegate, Ricky Nez, to support this legislation.

Thank you,

Fannie LookingGlass

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THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0255-23

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 (An Act Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings)

Posted: November 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: December 03, 2023

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	<i>None</i>
Comments Opposing	1) Rose Gillis
Comments/Recommendations	<i>None</i>



Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services

December 14, 2023 8:10 AM

Date/Time

Reply all | Delete Junk | ...



[EXTERNAL]0255-23



Rose Gillis <rmgillis@nnchapters.org>

Tue 12/12, 9:47 AM

comments

Reply all |

Inbox

I don't support the overturn of veto by President Nygren. The chapters will have no way of proper way of identifying the callers for voting purposes. I believe that meetings should be in person to properly account votes on resolutions. Please do not overturn the veto. This also makes the people accountable for attending meetings and being able to be part of discussions.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE REPORT
First Year 2023**

The **NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL # 0255-23

An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 (An Act Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings)

Sponsored by: Honorable Vince R. James

Has had it under consideration and reports the same that the legislation **WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL.**

Respectfully Submitted,



*Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Chairwoman
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE*

28 December 2023

MAIN MOTION

Motioned by: Honorable Carl R. Slater

Seconded by: Honorable Danny Simpson

Vote: 16 in Favor, 03 Opposed (Chairwoman Curley Not Voting)

NAVAJO NATION

280

12/28/2023

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

02:43:58 PM

Amd# to Amd#

New Business: Item E. (MAIN)

PASSED

MOT Slater, C

#0255-23

SEC Simpson, D

(No Modifications)

Yeas : 16

Nays : 3

Excused : 3

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 16

Begay, H

Damon, S

Notah, N

Slater, C

Begay, N

James, V

Parrish, S

Tolth, G

Claw, S

Johnson, C

Simonson, G

Yanito, C

Crotty, A

Nez, R

Simpson, D

Yazzie, C

Nay : 3

Nez, A

Charles-Newton, E

Aseret, L

Excused : 3

Daniels, H

Tso, O

Jesus, B

Not Voting : 1

Arviso, S

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C

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

LEGISLATION NO.: 0255-23

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

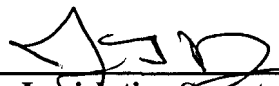
TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 (An Act Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings)

Posted: November 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: December 03, 2023

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1) Carolene Bitsui 2) Lucinda Lee 3) Orlinda Wirth 4) Fannie LookingGlass 5) Garin Greyeyes 6) Darlene Tso 7) Emmeline Thompson 8) Alvino Sandoval
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Comments/Recommendations	1) Melissa Teller



Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services


January 11, 2024 11:48 AM



Date/Time

 Reply all |   Delete  Junk |  

Legislation 0255-23



Wed 12/27/2023, 8:54 AM
comments 

 Reply all | 

Inbox

Hi.

My name is Carolene Bitsui. I am a registered voter for Kayenta Chapter.

I support Legislation 0255-23.

Vote Green.

Thank you,
Carolene Bitsui

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[EXTERNAL]legislation



Lucinda Lee

Wed 12/27/2023, 9:53 AM

comments ▾

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Inbox

Hello,

i support Legislation 0255-23, Gadiiahi chapter is in need of quorum and many have zoomed and called in during covid year and after. Please allow continue use of this method for meeting attendance.

Ahe'hee,

Lucinda Lee

Gadiiahi Grazing Officer

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To Support Legislation 0255-23



Orlanda Wirth

Wed 12/27/2023, 11:09 AM

comments

Reply all |

Inbox

Orlanda Shirley Wirth
Dilkon Chapter

I strongly Support Legislation 0255-23 To override Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren Veto and to give the Option to Chapters to include "Virtual Attendance" to community members to meet Quorum.
An Awesome opportunity for our Dine' around the World to attend Chapter Meetings and make their voices & votes count.

Huge Thanks to Delegate Vince James for Sponsoring and Re-Sponsoring this Legislation.

OUR VOTES & VOICES NEED TO COUNT IN OUR LOCAL DILKON CHAPTER GOVERNMENT. THANK YOU!!

Orlanda Shirley Wirth
Dilkon Chapter Voter
Fort Defiance Agency

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0255-23 Amending T26 to allow Virtual Attendance



Fannie

Wed 12/27/2023, 12:16 PM

comments ▾

🔄 Reply all | ▾

Inbox

I strongly support the passage of this legislation. We are in uncertain times with climate change and also experiencing the transmission of new diseases, some more deadly and contagious. Old diseases that were once contained such as tuberculosis are now reviving and occurring various places. It is common knowledge that our people experienced traumatic loss of lives from tuberculosis and many had to be quarantined in the past. Air borne infections are spread especially during the winter months.

The council should and must consider these things and plan for the preservation of lives by supporting this legislation. The passage of this legislation will allow us, such as elderly people like me, to call in from the safety of our home and virtually attend chapter meetings.

We live in a world of fast paced changing technology, therefore, we as a Nation must take advantage of technology. Nothing is problem free but problems can be addressed and corrected.

RDC must support this legislation. I asked my delegate, Ricky Nez, to support this legislation since some of his chapters have passed resolutions supporting virtual meeting attendance. We elected you therefore we ask that you vote for what we want, NOT WHAT YOU PERSONALLY WANT.

People are now more aware of what their delegates vote for. Since this legislation gives chapters the option for virtual meeting attendance, it gives the control to chapters. If chapters (the voters) do not want it, it is their choice. You all would be doing us a favor, if you support this legislation. Thank you.

Fannie LookingGlass, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad Voter

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

Legations 255-23



Grn Grys

Wed 12/27/2023, 1:23 PM

comments 

 Reply all | 

Inbox

Dear Navajo Tribal Council,

As a voting member of the Shonto Chapter,


I am sending this email requesting that you override Navajo Nation President's veto. Please support Legation 225-23, the Navajo Nation Chapters in using virtual attendance to meet quorum for their meetings.

Thank you and respectfully,

Garin Greyeyes

Shonto AZ.

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Yes to Legislation 0255-23



Granny Tso

Wed 12/27/2023, 5:08 PM

comments 

 Reply all | 

Inbox

hello my name is Darlene Tso from the Western Navajo nation tuba city chapter. I'm emailing you to let you know that I support and that i'm in favor of Legislation 0255-23.

Yes to Legislation 0255-23

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

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Re: Legislation 0255-233



Emmeline Thompson

Wed 12/27/2023, 8:46 PM

comments

Reply all |

Inbox

As we have voted for better leadership and a better future for our Nation, with transparency and honesty, I SUPPORT this legislation. If we are aiming for equity, then this is the way to go to be inclusive.

Name: Emmeline P. Thompson

Chapter: Fort Defiance

SUPPORT: Legislation 0255-233

On Dec 27, 2023 8:42 PM, Emmeline Thompson <eblackgoat928@hotmail.com> wrote:

As we have voted for better leadership and a better future for our Nation, with transparency and honesty, I SUPPORT this legislation. If we are aiming for equity, then this is the way to go to be inclusive.

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Re: Legislation 0255-23



Emmeline Thompson

Wed 12/27/2023, 8:48 PM

comments ▾

↻ Reply all | ▾

Inbox

NAME- Emmeline P. Thompson
Chapter- Ft. Defiance
Support Legislation 0255-23

Amplify our voice inclusively!! Innovation at its finest!!

On Dec 27, 2023 8:42 PM, Emmeline Thompson <eblackgoat928@hotmail.com> wrote:

As we have voted for better leadership and a better future for our Nation, with transparency and honesty, I SUPPORT this legislation. If we are aiming for equity, then this is the way to go to be inclusive.


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

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Legislation 0255-23



Alvino Sandoval -
Thu 12/28/2023, 5:24 AM
comments 

 Reply all | 

Inbox

My name is Alvino Sandoval and a voting member of Alamo Navajo Chapter in Eastern Agency. I support legislation 0255-23 to override President Nygren's veto and allow for virtual attendance during chapter meetings.

Alvino Sandoval

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Legislation 0255-23



Melissa Teller

Sat 12/30/2023, 11:09 AM

comments ▾

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Inbox



Action Items



This is a comment regarding Legislation 0255-23 to override Navaj Nation president Buu Nygren and give the option to chapters to include "virtual attendance" within the community to meet quorum. Including virtual attendance is vital to the success of our communities. With new advances in technology, virtual options are becoming more and more used in society. There will never be a time where we go back to the old system, and it is successful. More of our people participated in the chapters and communities than I have ever seen while virtual attendance was allowed. I was very active in my community because of the option to log in from home! Now I cannot participate!!

This is very frustrating, I feel like my government and leaders are corrupt and living in the past, creating mistrust and negative feelings.

You cannot expect all community members and registered voters to drive to the chapters and meet quorum. Many people have left the reservation because of the jobs and education we need to survive. This interference of withholding information and keeping those out of the chapter who cannot attend is an old, political, negative way of thinking and doing business. The Navajo Nation must evolve and accommodate to be successful.

why would you not want to give the people opportunities to participate?

why would you restrict participation?

This does not make sense!!!

Open up chapter meetings to everyone!! Hybrid, so elders who live in the community can participate in person. and online people who are registered can attend also!

It is easy to just turn on the camera to verify who the person is. There is more fraud in the capital (Window Rock) than online meetings at a chapter house! It also could serve as a safety precaution for elders who cannot travel. Everyone has a tablet or computer nowadays and know how to participate, even elders!. In addition, I think funding for chapters to accommodate hybrid meeting should be set aside for larger TV screens, and speakers so the interactions in hybrid meetings is easier and more manageable. Take some funding from other areas that are not serving the nation as they should. Supporting the people will benefit the government.

I strongly urge you to represent the people and vote to return virtual meetings for chapter houses!

Respectfully

Melissa Teller

Iyanbito Chapter

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

LEGISLATION NO.: 0255-23

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 (An Act Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings)

Posted: November 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: December 03, 2023

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1) Fort Defiance Agency Council 2) Ganado Chapter 3) District 17 Council
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Comments/Recommendations	<i>None</i>



**Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services**

January 22, 2024 8:00 AM

Date/Time

**FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY COUNCIL
NAVAJO NATION**

LaVonne Tsosie, President
Elmer Clark, Vice-President
Marcarlo Roanhorse, Secretary
(*host*), Sergeant-At-Arm



District 18 Council
District 07 Council
District 17 Council
Chapter President

Resolution No. FDAC 01-24-008

RESOLUTION OF THE FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY COUNCIL

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING, SUPPORTING, AND RECOMMENDING THE 25TH
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION 0255-23: OVERRIDING
THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO ON NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. CO-85-23**

1. The Fort Defiance Agency Chapters encompass twenty-seven (27) of 110 Chapters officially recognized as Navajo Nation communities, they are Cornfields, Coyote Canyon, Crystal, Dilkon, Fort Defiance, Ganado, Houck, Indian Wells, Jeddito, Kinlichee, Klagetoh, Low Mountain, Lower Greasewood, Lupton, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Nahata Dzil, Oak Springs, Red Lake #18, Sawmill, St. Michaels, Steamboat, Teesto, Tohatchi, Twin Lakes, Whitecone and Wide Ruins; and

2. The Fort Defiance Agency Council serves as a local governing body to address local community needs, analyze, and recommend consensus effective and efficient plan of action(s) to the Navajo Nation, County, State and/or Federal government; and

3. The Fort Defiance Agency Council comprise of elected Chapter Officials, Governance Commissioners, Grazing Officials, Land / Farm Board, School Board Members and Board of Election Supervisors; and

4. The Fort Defiance Agency Council is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community while making appropriate delicate decisions as deem necessary and to make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions; and

5. The Fort Defiance Agency Council was established to address the needs, concerns, and general welfare of its constituents and advocate on their behalf for successful implementation of viable agency projects; and

6. In 2020, the Navajo Nation was forced to quickly enact emergency of the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and underlying Public Health Orders including, but limited to, employees working from home, the shutting down of government

offices and non-essential business, public gathering limits, mask mandates, closing boarders to visitors and enacting curfews.

7. To ensure that the Navajo Nation's 110 Chapters could continue to operate and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic in their communities without violating Public Health Orders, including stay-at-home orders and public gathering limits, the Navajo Nation Council enacted numerous resolutions, including CAP-19-20, CJY-66-0, CJY-65-20, CJN-36-20, CJA-01-22, etc., which temporarily allowed chapter members to attend and participate at Chapter meetings, including, Chapter Subcommittees and Community Land Use Plan Planning meetings, meetings using virtual telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.

8. In 2021 and 2022, the Navajo Nation slowly began to open up government offices. Meeting and conducting the business of the Nation was done in person with certain limitations and safeguards in place, especially after the COVID-19 vaccine became available. During this time period, many chapters moved to hybrid-style meetings, allowing virtual attendance by chapter members, delegates, presenters, government officials and the public.

9. Chapters and chapter members were provided a unique opportunity to use virtual meetings, which moved to hybrid in-person and virtual meetings, to continue the necessary and important work of their chapters and communities. The use of virtual meetings was not only effective, but provided more opportunities for Chapter members to participate, as well as to provide enhanced transparency to the public.

10. On June 15, 2023, Dr. Buu Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation and the Commission on Emergency Management issued CEM-23-06-15, deactivating the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and returning government operations to pre-COVID-19 status.

11. Many Chapters and Chapter members have shown support for a permanent change to Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to allow chapter members to attend and participate at chapter meetings through virtual methods, including audio and/or video teleconferencing.

12. The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

Chapter 1. Navajo Nation Chapters
Subchapter 1. Generally

§ 2. Definitions

5. "Attendance" means to be present either in person or through virtual methods.

35. "Virtual" or "virtually" means remote access through an audio or video

conferencing platform. Chapter meetings may be held virtually, or a combination of virtual and in- person. Any reference to chapter meeting throughout this Act includes the authorization to hold virtual or a combination of virtual and in-person meetings.

36. "Virtual Attendance" means that a person is not physically present at a meeting, but is still able to participate in the meeting, in a manner similar to those physically present, by means of an audio and/or video conferencing platform.

Chapter 2. Chapter Government

Subchapter 5. Navajo Nation Chapters, Officials and Administration--Generally

§1002. Meetings; meeting notice requirement; compensation of Chapter Officials

C. Compensation of Chapter officials.

2. A Chapter meeting claim form signed only by the claimant shall be attached to each of the regularly scheduled Chapter meeting reports filed by the Chapter secretary/treasurer with the Chapter Government Development Department, Division of Community Development, or if applicable, by the Chapter Administration.

c. No Chapter official shall be compensated for a Chapter meeting unless he or she was in official attendance, either in person or virtually, at that meeting; and

§1003. Order of Business

B. All Chapter meetings require a quorum of twenty-five (25) registered Chapter members to be in attendance, either in person or virtually, to conduct official Chapter business. Chapters, whether governance-certified or not, may amend the quorum requirement, based upon models and procedural regulations adopted by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. Adoption of an amended quorum requirement requires approval by Chapter ballot measure in accordance with 11 N.N.C. §§ 401-408.

13. The Ganado Chapter approved Resolution No. GAN-449-2023: *Ganado Chapter Respectfully Requesting, Supporting, and Recommending The 25th Navajo Nation Council to Support Legislation 0255-23: Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto on Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. Co-85-23 on December 19, 2023, with a vote of 20 in favor, 2 opposed, and 3 abstain.*

14. The District 17 Council approved Resolution D17-1201-23: *Respectfully Requesting, Supporting, And Recommending The 25th Navajo Nation Council To Support Legislation 0255-23: Overriding The Navajo Nation President's Veto On Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. Co-85-23* on December 20, 2023, with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstain.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

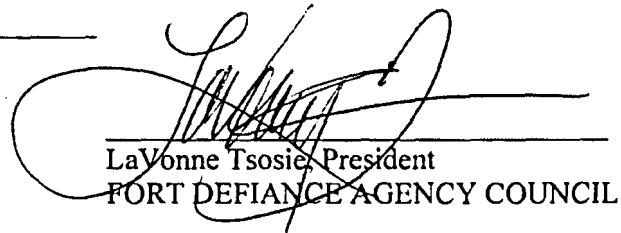
The Fort Defiance Agency hereby supports, approves, and recommends the 25th Navajo Nation Council to Support Legislation 0255-23: Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto on Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing resolution was presented and approved by the Fort Defiance Agency Council at a duly called meeting at Houck Chapter in Houck (Navajo Nation), Arizona at which a quorum was present, and that same was Passed by a vote of 28 in favor, 3 opposed, and 4 abstained on this 6th day of January, 2024.


MOTION by: Loterta Mastach

SECOND by: Roger James




LaVonne Tsosie, President
FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY COUNCIL

ATTEST:



Elmer Clark, Vice President
FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY COUNCIL



Marcarlo Roanhorse, Secretary
FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY COUNCIL

GANADO CHAPTER

Christopher West, Chapter Manager

Cindy L. Smith, Acting Chapter Manager/Admin. Assistant

Larry T. Sosie, Chapter Projects Manager

Lonya Kinlecheenic, Chapter Office Assistant



Marcarlo Roanhorse, Chapter President

Walter Jones, Chapter Vice-President

Judy A. James, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Vince R. James, Council Delegate

Thomas Curley, Grazing Official

Post Office Box 188 Ganado, Arizona 86505

Telephone: (928) 755-5920

Facsimile: (928) 755-5927

Email: ganado@navajonation.org

Resolution No. GAN-449-2023

RESOLUTION OF THE GANADO CHAPTER

GANADO CHAPTER RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING, SUPPORTING, AND RECOMMENDING THE 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION 0255-23; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO ON NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. CO-85-23

WHEREAS:

1. The Ganado Chapter is a duly certified local governing entity recognized by the Navajo Nation Council through 11 N.N.C. § 10(A), to advocate and address the needs and development of the local people to interact with other departments of the Navajo Nation, federal and local agencies which serve and affect the Navajo Nation; and
2. The Ganado Chapter is a Governance Certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation vested authority under 26 N.N.C. § 101 et. seq; and
3. The Ganado Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community while making appropriate delicate decisions as deem necessary and to make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions; and
4. In 2020, the Navajo Nation was forced to quickly enact emergency of the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and underlying Public Health Orders including, but limited to, employees working from home, the shutting down of government offices and non-essential business, public gathering limits, mask mandates, closing boarders to visitors and enacting curfews.
5. To ensure that the Navajo Nation's 110 Chapters could continue to operate and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic in their communities without violating Public Health Orders, including stay-at-home orders and public gathering limits, the Navajo Nation Council enacted numerous resolutions, including CAP-19-20, CJY-66-0, CJY-65-20, CJN-36-20, CJA-01-22, etc., which temporarily allowed chapter members to attend and participate at Chapter meetings, including, Chapter Subcommittees and Community Land Use Plan Planning meetings, meetings using virtual telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.

GANADO CHAPTER

Christopher West, Chapter Manager
Cindy L. Smith, Acting Chapter Manager/Admin. Assistant
Larry Teosie, Chapter Projects Manager
Lonya Kinlecheenic, Chapter Office Assistant



Marcarlo Roanhorse, Chapter President
Walter Jones, Chapter Vice-President
Judy A. James, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer
Vince R. James, Council Delegate
Thomas Curley, Grazing Official

Post Office Box 188 Ganado, Arizona 86505 Telephone: (928) 755-5920 Facsimile: (928) 755-5927 Email: ganadog@navajonation.com

6. In 2021 and 2022, the Navajo Nation slowly began to open up government offices. Meeting and conducting the business of the Nation was done in person with certain limitations and safeguards in place, especially after the COVID-19 vaccine became available. During this time period, many chapters moved to hybrid-style meetings, allowing virtual attendance by chapter members, delegates, presenters, government officials and the public.
7. Chapters and chapter members were provided a unique opportunity to use virtual meetings, which moved to hybrid in-person and virtual meetings, to continue the necessary and important work of their chapters and communities. The use of virtual meetings was not only effective, but provided more opportunities for Chapter members to participate, as well as to provide enhanced transparency to the public.
8. On June 15, 2023, Dr. Buu Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation and the Commission on Emergency Management issued CEM-23-06-15, deactivating the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and returning government operations to pre-COVID-19 status.
9. Many Chapters and Chapter members have shown support for a permanent change to Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to allow chapter members to attend and participate at chapter meetings through virtual methods, including audio and/or video teleconferencing.
10. The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

Chapter 1. Navajo Nation Chapters Subchapter 1. Generally

§ 2. Definitions

5. "Attendance" means to be present either in person or through virtual methods.

35. "Virtual" or "virtually" means remote access through an audio or video conferencing platform. Chapter meetings may be held virtually, or a combination of virtual and in-person. Any reference to chapter meeting throughout this Act includes the authorization to hold virtual or a combination of virtual and in-person meetings.

36. "Virtual Attendance" means that a person is not physically present at a meeting, but is still able to participate in the meeting, in a manner similar to those physically present, by means of an audio and/or video conferencing platform.

GANADO CHAPTER

Christopher West, Chapter Manager
Cindy L. Smith, Acting Chapter Manager/Admin. Assistant
Larry T. Sosie, Chapter Projects Manager
Lonya Kinlecheenic, Chapter Office Assistant



Marcarlo Roanhorse, Chapter President
Walter Jones, Chapter Vice-President
Judy A. James, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer
Vince R. James, Council Delegate
Thomas Curley, Grazing Official

Post Office Box 188 Ganado, Arizona 86505 Telephone: (928) 755-5920 Facsimile: (928) 755-5927 Email: ganado@navajochapter.org

Chapter 2. Chapter Government

Subchapter 5. Navajo Nation Chapters, Officials and Administration—Generally

§1002. Meetings; meeting notice requirement; compensation of Chapter Officials

C. Compensation of Chapter officials.

2. A Chapter meeting claim form signed only by the claimant shall be attached to each of the regularly scheduled Chapter meeting reports filed by the Chapter secretary/treasurer with the Chapter Government Development Department, Division of Community Development, or if applicable, by the Chapter Administration.

c. No Chapter official shall be compensated for a Chapter meeting unless he or she was in official attendance, either in person or virtually, at that meeting; and

§1003. Order of Business

B. All Chapter meetings require a quorum of twenty-five (25) registered Chapter members to be in attendance, either in person or virtually, to conduct official Chapter business. Chapters, whether governance-certified or not, may amend the quorum requirement, based upon models and procedural regulations adopted by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. Adoption of an amended quorum requirement requires approval by Chapter ballot measure in accordance with 11 N.N.C. §§ 401-408.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Ganado Chapter hereby supports, approves, and recommends the 25th Navajo Nation Council to Support Legislation 0255-23: Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto on Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing resolution was presented and approved by the Ganado Chapter at a duly called meeting in Ganado (Navajo Nation), Arizona at which a quorum was present, and that same was passed by a vote of 20 in favor, 2 opposed, and 3 abstained on this 19th day of December, 2023.

GANADO CHAPTER

Christopher West, Chapter Manager
Cindy L. Smith, Acting Chapter Manager/Admin. Assistant
Larry T sosie Chapter Projects Manager
Lonya Kinlecheenie Chapter Office Assistant

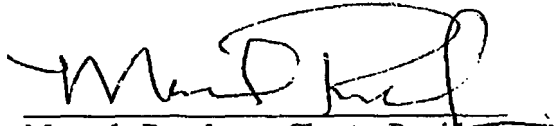


Marcarlo Roanhorse Chapter President
Walter Jones Chapter Vice-President
Judy A. James Chapter Secretary/Treasurer
Vince R. James Council Delegate
Thomas Curley Grazing Official

Post Office Box 188 Ganado, Arizona 86505 Telephone: (928) 755-5920 Facsimile: (928) 755-5927 Email: ganadot@navajonation.com

MOTION by: Philandra Nelson

SECOND by: Steven Kee




Marcarlo Roanhorse, Chapter President
GANADO CHAPTER

ATTEST:



Walt Jones, Vice President
GANADO CHAPTER



Judy James, Secretary/Treasurer
GANADO CHAPTER

DISTRICT 17 COUNCIL

Corrfields ~ Ganado ~ Greasewood Springs ~ Kinlichee ~ Klagetoh ~ Steamboat ~ Wide Ruins

Manual Rico, President

Wallace James, Jr, Vice President

Tauve Begaye, Secretary

RESOLUTION D17-1201-23

RESOLUTION OF THE DISTRICT 17 COUNCIL

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING, SUPPORTING, AND RECOMMENDING THE 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION 0255-23; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO ON NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. CO-85-23

WHEREAS:

1. The District 17 Council Chapters are all duly certified local governing entity recognized by the Navajo Nation Council through 11 N.N.C. § 10(A), to advocate and address the needs and development of the local people to interact with other departments of the Navajo Nation, federal and local agencies which serve and affect the Navajo Nation; and
2. The District 17 Council Chapter are Non-Governance Certified and Governance Certified Chapters with vested authority under 26 N.N.C. § 101 et. seq; and
3. The District 17 Council Chapters are all vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community while making appropriate delicate decisions as deem necessary and to make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions; and
4. In 2020, the Navajo Nation was forced to quickly enact emergency of the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and underlying Public Health Orders including, but limited to, employees working from home, the shutting down of government offices and non-essential business, public gathering limits, mask mandates, closing boarders to visitors and enacting curfews.
5. To ensure that the Navajo Nation's 110 Chapters could continue to operate and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic in their communities without violating Public Health Orders, including stay-at-home orders and public gathering limits, the Navajo Nation Council enacted numerous resolutions, including CAP-19-20, CJY-66-0, CJY-65-20, CJN-36-20, CJA-01-22, etc., which temporarily allowed chapter members to attend and participate at Chapter meetings, including, Chapter Subcommittees and Community Land Use Plan Planning meetings, meetings using virtual telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.
6. In 2021 and 2022, the Navajo Nation slowly began to open up government offices. Meeting and conducting the business of the Nation was done in person with certain limitations and safeguards in place, especially after the COVID-19 vaccine became available. During this time period, many chapters moved to hybrid-style meetings, allowing virtual attendance by chapter members, delegates, presenters, government officials and the public.
7. Chapters and chapter members were provided a unique opportunity to use virtual meetings, which moved to hybrid in-person and virtual meetings, to continue the necessary and important work of their chapters and communities. The use of virtual meetings was not only effective, but provided more opportunities for Chapter members to participate, as well as to provide enhanced transparency to the public.

for the Navajo Nation and returning government operations to pre-COVID-19 status.

9. Many Chapters and Chapter members have shown support for a permanent change to Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to allow chapter members to attend and participate at chapter meetings through virtual methods, including audio and/or video teleconferencing.

10. The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

Chapter 1. Navajo Nation Chapters
Subchapter 1. Generally

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Chapter 2. Chapter Government

Subchapter 5. Navajo Nation Chapters, Officials and Administration--Generally

§1002. Meetings; meeting notice requirement; compensation of Chapter Officials

C. Compensation of Chapter officials.

2. A Chapter meeting claim form signed only by the claimant shall be attached to each of the regularly scheduled Chapter meeting reports filed by the Chapter secretary/treasurer with the Chapter Government Development Department, Division of Community Development, or if applicable, by the Chapter Administration.

c. No Chapter official shall be compensated for a Chapter meeting unless he or she was in official attendance, either in person or virtually, at that meeting; and

§1003. Order of Business

B. All Chapter meetings require a quorum of twenty-five (25) registered Chapter members to be in attendance, either in person or virtually, to conduct official Chapter business. Chapters, whether governance-certified or not, may amend the quorum requirement, based upon models and procedural regulations adopted by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. Adoption of an amended quorum requirement requires approval by Chapter ballot measure in accordance with 11 N.N.C. §§ 401-408.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

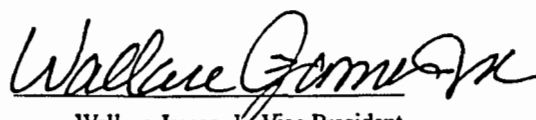
The District 17 Council hereby supports, approves, and recommends the 25th Navajo Nation Council to Support Legislation 0255-23: Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto on Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing resolution was presented and approved by the District 17 Council at a duly called meeting in Greasewood Springs (Navajo Nation), Arizona at which a quorum was present, and that same was passed by a vote of -10- in favor, -0- opposed, and -2- abstained on this 20th day of December, 2023.

MOTION by: Arthur Hardv

SECOND by: Judy James



Wallace James, Jr, Vice President

DISTRICT 17 COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Tauve Begaye, Secretary
DISTRICT 17 COUNCIL

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

LEGISLATION NO.: 0255-23

SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-85-23 (An Act Amending Title 26 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Virtual Attendance at Chapter Meetings)

Posted: November 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: December 03, 2023

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1) Eastern Navajo Agency Council
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Comments/Recommendations	<i>None</i>



**Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services**

January 23, 2024 8:15 AM

Date/Time



RESOLUTION
OF THE
EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL
THE NAVAJO NATION

No. ENAC-12-2023-144

CALLING UPON THE 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL TO OVERRIDE THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION CO-85-23 – AMENDING TITLE 26 TO ALLOW VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT CHAPTER MEETINGS

WHEREAS:

1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council is established under the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation and certified by Resolution IGRS-251-01; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 103 (D) (4), the Eastern Navajo Agency Council, a consortium of elected Chapter Officials representing thirty-one (31) certified Navajo Nation Chapters, agree to address and undertake common goals and interests for the benefit of the Eastern Navajo Agency Chapters; and
3. Pursuant 2 N.N.C SECTION: 4028; the Eastern Navajo Agency Council is vested with government authority to review all matters affecting the community to make most appropriate recommendations when necessary to the Navajo Nation, County, State, Federal and other local agencies; and
4. Navajo Nation Council Legislation Tracking No. 0255-23 seeks to override the Navajo Nation President's VETO of allowing for virtual attendance at chapter meeting, while reiterating the authorization of each Navajo Chapter to choose whether or not the Chapter will allow virtual attendance thus providing each Chapter to exercise their local governance authority over such matters; and
5. Virtual/hybrid public meetings offers:
 - a. significant benefits where emerging technologies have the potential to reshape community engagement for local Chapter communities who embrace, identify, and adapt with the rapidly, everchanging needs and preferences of their citizens/members and other attendees; and
 - b. flexible options for community participation through greater access that has been shown to greatly increase involvement and foster connection; and
6. Public meeting attendance challenges exist and addressing it with new tools purpose built for government can put Chapter communities in a better position to capitalize on emerging technologies to meet the changing expectation of the public, elected officials and shifting guidelines/circumstances; and
7. Title 26, the *Local Governance Act*, authorizes Chapters to make decisions over local matters – how a local Chapter government chooses to engage participation is a 'local matter' with the ultimate decision-making residing with EACH local Chapter community; and
8. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council seeks flexible, equitable, and safe approaches for participation in Chapter/public meetings and looks forward to delivering innovative and equitable ways to engage citizens/members that build upon and grow their local Chapter government; and
9. The future of community engagement and public meetings is neither strictly virtual nor in-person – but a blend of both to deliver innovative, equitable approaches to community engagement/participation for the Chapter communities we serve.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council hereby calls upon the 25th Navajo Nation Council to override the Navajo Nation President's veto of Resolution CO85-23.
2. **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, the Eastern Navajo Agency Council respectfully asks for sufficient funding to be allocated to those Navajo Chapters who choose to embrace hybrid public meetings, to acquire a community engagement

platform with equipment purpose built for Chapter governments to address the opportunities and challenges associated with conducting public meetings fairly, legitimately, and effectively.

3. **FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Eastern Navajo Agency Council respectfully asks the 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the President & Vice President to support local Chapter authority over 'local matters' and acknowledge each Chapter's individuality as they discuss and pass policy documents that build a sustainable path forward in a rapidly changing world/environment.

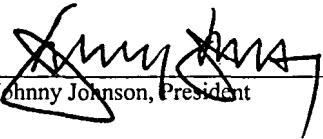
CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was approved by the Eastern Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting at *Baahaali'* Chapter, Breadsprings, New Mexico at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 30 in favor, 07 opposed, 00 abstained, this 2nd day of December 2023.

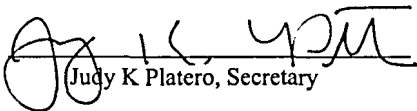
Motion: Cecil Lewis, Jr., Baca/Prewitt Chapter

Second: Arlene Arviso, Becenti Chapter

Attest:



Johnny Johnson, President



Judy K Platero, Secretary