

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ' COMMITTEE OF THE  
22<sup>ND</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAA'BIK'ÍYÁTÍ' ; AUTHORIZING THE NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO ASSIST THE NAVAJO NATION IN 2011-2012 CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE REDISTRICTING ACTIVITIES AND ENDORSING AND RECOMMENDING CERTAIN REDISTRICTING PLANS

BE IT ENACTED:

**Section 1. Findings and Purposes**

A. The Navajo Nation occupies lands in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

B. Navajo voters have a right to vote and participate in all state elections, including those in which federal positions are involved.

C. Navajos are citizens of the United States and citizens of various states. It is crucial that Navajo people are fairly and adequately represented in all legislative and Congressional redistricting plans.

D. Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, among other states, are currently addressing redistricting, including redistricting of Congressional and state legislative districts.

E. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission was established by the Navajo Nation Council for various purposes, including the protection of basic rights of Navajo people.

F. On March 31, 2011, the Speaker of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council recognized that race relations are primary factors in state efforts to redistrict congressional and legislative districts and accordingly directed the Navajo Nation Human Rights commission to take the lead on behalf of the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Government with regards to the redistricting activities in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah attached hereto as (Exhibit No. 1).

G. In accordance with that directive the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission adopted Resolution NNHRCJUN-04-11 recommending the endorsement and recommendation by the Navajo Nation of Arizona Legislative Redistricting Plan Option "A" attached hereto as (Exhibit "No. 2")

**Section 2. Human Rights Commission to Assist in Redistricting**

A. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Human Rights Commission to assist the Navajo Nation on all state legislative and Congressional redistricting activities.

B. The Commission shall ensure that all members of the Navajo Nation are fairly and adequately represented in all elective districts. Most particularly, the Commission shall:

1. Improve/maintain the legislative districting in which the Navajo Nation is located and preserve a majority-minority standard; and
2. Improve the Congressional districting in which the Navajo Nation is located;
3. Remain intact in a single legislative district - avoid cracking; and
4. Resist all efforts to dilute the strength of the Navajo vote; ensure that Navajo voters are given fair and equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice; and
5. Resist retrogression; ensure that Navajo voting rights are protected and preserved.

**Section 3. Authorizing the Office of the Speaker to Assign Navajo Nation Council Delegates to Work with the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission**

A. The Speaker shall assign the Navajo Nation Council Delegates to work with the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission on the state redistricting activities.

B. The Council Delegates shall guide the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission in the development of maps, concepts, goals, and all other applicable standards for redistricting.

C. The Council Delegates' responsibility shall include appearing and providing testimony, on behalf of the Navajo Nation before governmental entities considering redistricting affecting Navajo people.

D. The Council Delegates shall seek the assistance of the Office of the Navajo Nation President/Vice President, the Office of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, the Navajo Election Administration and the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors on the collection of necessary data.

E. The Council Delegates' shall further provide monthly written reports on its activities to the Návik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

#### **Section 4. Endorsement and Recommendation**

The Navajo Nation hereby endorses and recommends Redistricting Plans for:

- Arizona attached hereto as (Exhibit No. 3) - Congressional District 1 Navajo Nation Proposals 1 and 2, Legislative District 2 Navajo Nation Proposal; and
- New Mexico attached hereto as (Exhibit No. 4) - Congressional District 3 Navajo Nation Proposal and New Mexico Senate Districts (Exhibit No. 4-A); and
- Utah attached hereto as (Exhibit No. 5) - Congressional District 2 Proposal, and San Juan County Navajo Nation Proposal for adoption of and implementation by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, New Mexico Legislature and Utah Legislature.

**Section 4. Duration of Action**

The duration of this action of the Navajo Nation shall continue until proposed redistricting plans of the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah currently being discussed for implementation are officially adopted and disputes, if any, are fully resolved.

**Section 5. Savings Clause**

Should any portion of this legislation enacted herein be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, of the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those portions not determined invalid shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Návik'iyáti' Committee of 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 15 in favor and 0 opposed, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 2011.

  
Johnny Naize, Chairperson  
Nabik'iyáti' Committee

Motion: LoRenzo Bates  
Second: Roscoe Smith