



Harry J. Willeto, Chapter President
Laura C. Lopez, Vice President
Marlene Thomas, Secretary/Treasurer

Leonard Tsosie, Council Delegate
Samuel Sage, Chapter Coordinator
Martha A. Aragon, AMS

**RESOLUTION OF COUNSELOR CHAPTER
COUNSELOR, NEW MEXICO**

#COUN-2015-03-_____

Requesting the New Mexico Congressional Caucus to Intervene on behalf of their citizens regarding the actions of the Bureau of Land Management on the leasing of certain parcels of public lands for horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing by calling for a moratorium until the Resource Management Plan is revised or amended; and, To call for an Environmental Impact Study to be conducted on the route of the proposed Pinon Pipeline; and, To implore the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region exercise due diligence trust responsibility to assure that the trust status rights of the Navajo citizens who are allottees or are heirs of allottees are protected; and, related actions

WHEREAS;

Pursuant to Navajo Nation Code, Counselor Chapter is certified to plan, to oversee community development, and to govern for the benefit of the community residents; and

Counselor Chapter has the inherent right to position itself for the public interest, public safety and the general welfare of their community and its residents; and,

Counselor Chapter has steadfastly communicated, coordinated and cooperatively planned the regional development of the five most Eastern Chapters of the Navajo Nation; and,

Counselor Chapter reads that the 2003 Resource Management Plan for the Farmington BLM District does not sufficiently address the technological development of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracking; and, at best had minimal input and participation in the drafting, development and finalization the Plan; and,

Counselor Chapter is keenly aware of the Bureau of Land Management's actions to lease the public lands for oil/gas exploration in a manner that precludes its multiple use to a singular use for energy development; and,

The Counselor Chapter and its residents have personal knowledge of the adverse impacts their relatives are experiencing with the declining air quality through the venting and flaring, the increased vehicular traffic, and the familial discord resulting from the bonus payments for the leasing of the allotments; and

As well, Counselor Chapter has knowledge that the Pinon Pipeline proposed by Saddle Butte Midstream, LLC is proceeding post haste absent a proper Environmental Impact Statement; and,

The Counselor Chapter has community voters who have allotments, are heirs and have an interest in the Mancos-Gallup shale formation areas, wherein Land Agents contracted by the many layered interests of the energy exploration corporations are leading the allottees to sign the leases without

proper legal advisement; and, the Bureau of Indian Affairs have not held individual advisement and PUBLIC HEARINGS to ensure that the trust status of the allottees are protected; and

Counselor Chapter supports the rights identified in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007 and was supported by President Obama in December 2010 by issuing that the Declaration has both moral and political force must guide the policies and practices of all the agencies for the Federal government to assure the needs, interests and points regarding land use priorities, protection of culturally grounded ways of life and safe guarding the environment which are imbued in Articles 26, 27, 29 and 32 of the UN Declaration.

Above all concerns, Counselor Chapter positions itself to have the Federal agencies recognize the home sites, traditional and customary use areas to be protected as there is the living Navajo society and culture in place since before the agencies were authorized

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Counselor Chapter requests the New Mexico Senators Tom Udall, Heinrich and Congressman Lujan to:

1. Intervene on behalf of their citizens regarding the actions of the Bureau of Land Management on the leasing of certain parcels of public lands for horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing by calling for a moratorium until the Resource Management Plan is revised or amended; and,
2. To call for an Environmental Impact Study to be conducted on the route of the proposed Pinon Pipeline; and,
3. To implore the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region exercise due diligence trust responsibility to assure that the trust status rights of the Navajo citizens who are allottees or are heirs of allottees are protected; and,

Furthermore, Counselor Chapter requests assistance to secure funding to conduct health impact assessments, baseline water and soil testing and air quality monitoring for the impacted areas.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Counselor Chapter, Navajo Nation, in the State of New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstained on this 10th day of March, 2015.

Motion: Rose Yazzie

Harry J. Willetts
Harry J. Willetts, Chapter President

Marlene Thomas
Marlene Thomas, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Elizabeth Stoney
Elizabeth Stoney, Land Board Member

Second: Milita Pablo

Laura C. Lopez
Laura C. Lopez, Chapter Vice President

Leonard Tsosie, Council Delegate