

## MANY FARMS CHAPTER

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Crystalyne Curley, Delegate 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Charlotte J. Begaye, President  
Jacqueline Begaye, Vice President  
Helena Shepherd, Secretary/Treasurer

Francine Harrison, CSC  
Lewanda A. Ben, AMS  
Elbert Jumbo, Grazing Representative

### Resolution of the Many Farms Chapter

MF-48-03-2026

### OBJECTING TO THE OFFICE OF NAVAJO GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT'S (ONGD) EXPEDITED REFORM PROPOSAL; DEMANDING LEGALLY SUFFICIENT REVIEW & NON-CONFLICTED INDEPENDENT LEGAL COUNSEL

#### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to CMY-23-79, the Many Farms Chapter is a certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation vested with authority and responsibilities to provide and enact on the all matters affecting the community; and
2. Pursuant to CAP-34-98, the Navajo Nation Council approved the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA) that allows Many Farms Chapter to make decisions over local matters; and
3. Many Farms Chapter is a Navajo Nation Chapter, in a chapter system which has been used since 1923 as the primary community forum for deliberation, consensus, and petitioning without autonomous power, and which remains in a state of enforced non-autonomy by the central government, whether or not the Chapter is certified or non-certified, awaiting the full restoration of the local autonomy and home rule exercising *Naachidi Nahat 'á* hoped for by the 1995 proposal of the Local Empowerment Initiative.
4. Because the Navajo Nation Department of Justice (DOJ) strongly objected to the proposal's emphasis on local autonomy, in 1998 the Local Governance Act (LGA) was enacted instead, which has been a system of demoralizing forever conditions, like being told you can own your own home, but only after you spend your life maintaining the property, and if you miss even one day (any clerical error), you have "proven" you aren't ready for ownership justifying more and more restrictions.
5. We are tired of this administrative treadmill and yes, we believe the LGA is broken and does need fixing, but so far no one has asked us; not the DOJ which has been imposed on us as the "principal legal advisor," nor the Office of Navajo Government Reform (ONGD) which is tasked with empowering Chapters through offering proposals that "enhance, honor and comply" with Diné bi beenahaz'áanii Bitsé Silei at 2 N.N.C. §§ 201-206 (CD-92-20, Dec 23, 2020).
6. We recently learned of ONGD's intent to **supersede** the Local Governance Act in its entirety and permanently separate Chapters from Navajo Nation property and resources, without notifying chapters of this intent, without convening any chapter hearings, and while making available only 48 pages of a huge document rumored to be more than one hundred pages.
7. ONGD's proposal is intended to be rushed onto the Nov 3, 2026 ballot as a referendum question; calling itself *Diyin Nohookáá Dine 'é Bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsí Siléi—the Collective Will*, it contains nothing but man-made law that is said to be written by students and, furthermore, lacks any findings on water shortages, homesite delays, youth flight, and language decline.
8. We were also alerted that ONGD had set March 6, 2026 as the FINAL deadline for public input before its document is internally revised and prepared for certification by the Navajo Election Board by May; it appears ONGD is intent on bypassing legislative review, legislative public comment period, and majority chapter approval required under 26 N.N.C. § 1(E).

9. At a Feb 24-25, 2026 incomplete presentation at Twin Arrows, ONGD showed attendees 116 pages it said was still being revised by students (!); claimed the document name had changed, and proclaimed that the FINAL date for public input was now March 31, 2026.
10. Our principal legal advisor, the DOJ, has known but did not tell us of ONGD’s massive effort that includes chapter restructure, at least since the November 25, 2025 special worksession of the Resource and Development Committee (RDC), which discussed ONGD’s document.
11. We believe the DOJ is unable to act as our principal legal advisor especially in this case because there exists an inherent structural conflict of interest in the DOJ simultaneously reporting to the central government and having to defend and provide amendments in keeping with central government initiatives.
12. We have so many questions—how can a 116 page documents that ONGD has kept hidden and continues to be internally revised by students be certified as a single referendum question; how can a March public input deadline for a huge hidden document to be placed on referendum within 8 months even be acceptable under Navajo statutory law and Diné Fundamental Law; and why the race toward referendum of a document we are told ends chapter support from Window Rock, emphasizes business and investors, and addresses Diné Nihi Keyah as a “commodity”?
13. We believe that Navajo Election Board’s Resolution BOESS-070-14, which requires each referendum question be single subjects and not multiple subjects that would confuse voters, ought to prevent certification of largely unknown and unexamined content to be raced to ballot as a single referendum question.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- A. Many Farms Chapter demands that the ONGD immediately release the 108-page proposal to be considered by the Navajo Nation Council and subjected to a formal, legally sufficient legislative review process pursuant to 26 N.N.C. § 1(E).
- B. We believe the DOJ is conflicted and unable to properly safeguard the local governance interests of Chapters, due to its inherent structural conflict and as shown by its failure to disclose the ONGD’s strategy to supersede the LGA.
- C. We demand that the Navajo Nation Council immediately appropriate emergency funds, or allow use of other funds, for the 110 Chapters to retain Independent Special Counsel to review the amendments proposed by the DOJ Chapter Unit and the ONGD proposal.
- D. We formally petition the Navajo Election Board to review the ONGD reform proposal for compliance with Resolution BOESS-070-14.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered by the Many Farms Chapter at a duly called meeting in Many Farms, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed and 4 abstained this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

Motion: Deandra Gorman Robbins

Charlotte J. Begaye  
Charlotte J. Begaye, Chapter President

Helena Shepherd  
Helena Shepherd, Secretary/Treasurer

Second: Arlene Gorman

Jacqueline J. Begaye  
Jacqueline J. Begaye, Vice President

Elbert Jumbo  
Elbert Jumbo, Grazing Committee