

Mexican Springs Chapter

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P.O. Box 689 Tohatchi, NM 87325

RESOLUTION OF THE MEXICAN SPRINGS CHAPTER RESOLUTION NUMBER: MS-03-2026-05

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

1. The Mexican Springs Chapter is a certified chapter and recognized by the Navajo Nation Council and other governmental entities, pursuant to CAP-37-98; and
2. The Mexican Springs Chapter functions under the auspices of the Local Governance Act, 26 N.N.C. ET> Seq., that delegated each Chapter the authority to improve governmental structure and the opportunity to make decision over local matters; and
3. The Mexican Springs Chapter has the authority to review matters affecting the community and to make appropriate correction when necessary and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions; and
4. Mexican Springs 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'a* hoped for by the 1995 proposal of the Local Empowerment Initiative; and
5. 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; and
6. 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 *Dine bi beenahaz'aanii Bitse Silei* at 2 N.N.C. §§ 201-206 (CD-92-20, Dec 23, 2020); and
7. 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; and

8. ONGD's proposal is intended to be rushed onto the Nov 3, 2026 ballot as a referendum question; calling itself *Diyin Nohookaa Dine'e Bi Beehaz 'aanii Bitsi Silei-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; and
9. 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. § I(E); and
10. 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; and
11. 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 November 25, 2025 special work session of the Resource and Development Committee (RDC), which discussed ONGD's document; and
12. 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; and
13. 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 Dine 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 Dine Nihi Keyah as a "commodity"?; and
14. 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. The Mexican Springs 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. § I(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

I hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Mexican Chapter at a duly called meeting in Mexican Springs, Navajo Nation, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 17 in favor, -0- opposed and 04 abstained on the **16th day of March, 2026.**

MOTION: Marlene James

SECOND: Phillip Tsosie



Roberta Becenti, President
Mexican Springs Chapter