



Nihooka Diyin Diné



To:

Office and Commission of the Navajo Government Development Program

The Navajo Nation Council

The Navajo Election Administration

Diné People of the Navajo Nation

We are the spokespersons for the Diné Hataalii Association, Inc. and the Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc. Both organizations met on Sunday, May 17, 2026 to review the Navajo Government Development Commission (NGDC) government reform proposal titled Diyin Nohookáá Diné'é Bi Beehaz'aani Bitsi Siléi Sa'ah Naghái Bik'eh Hó'zhóón, Collective Will.

The proposal's title is a misuse of our sacred language. We found the proposal to be totally devoid of the values and principles underlying Diné traditional fundamental law. Instead, we find that it contains provisions that are counterproductive to the preservation of the Navajo Nation and the Diné culture and traditions. The use of these sacred words to hide the harmful effects of this proposal must not be tolerated. Several other sections in the body of the document misuse Diné terms, but more importantly, the misuse reflects not only a misunderstanding of Diné fundamental law, our foundational law, our culture and traditions, but an effort to deceive those who may not be fully fluent in our Diné language.

Therefore, we reject the proposal and request that the Navajo Nation Elections Office and the Navajo Nation Council not allow it to advance to a referendum.

The Diné have always been governed by peers elected for their demonstrated skills in governance and dispute resolution, the respect they have earned from community members, and their integrity. While some of our elected officials have proven not to be worthy of our respect, the idea that key decisions are made by those persons the community chose as leaders is fundamental. This proposal includes a fourth branch of government that has powers to overrule

our elected officials. Those powers are granted to people who are not elected and have no apparent mechanism for accountability. This is absolutely contrary to millennia of cultural history and is unacceptable.

The proposal does nothing to counteract the harms caused by the imposition upon our People of a government which is a copy of United States federal and state governments. Dine' government reform should advance our traditions and culture, and by doing so preserve our identity as a sovereign nation. Instead, this proposal takes many steps further away from that. For example, the proposal includes provisions that would transfer our tribe's collectively owned businesses (tribal enterprises) into private ownership, along with encouraging private ownership of land that is now held for the benefit of all. These actions are simply wrong.

Investor "rights" do not belong in any reform of our government. Foreign companies with investment money must never be empowered to supersede our own inherent right to regulate the use of our lands. Additionally, extraction industries should not be encouraged. We must learn from the contamination, pollution, and degradation of our sacred land, air, water, plants, animals, and the health and wellbeing of our People that occurred because of extraction industries. Exploiters came and took our natural resources and left us with sickness and damage. We cannot encourage more of this devastating behavior. Our water is vital to our sustainability as a People. We should not allow our sacred water to be exploited, depleted or contaminated for harmful industries.

There is already much criticism in our communities of how the Diné public has not been included in the development of NGDC's proposal. Additionally, Office of Navajo Government Development Commission (ONGDC) presentations do not inform nor educate the Diné people. The ONGDC team managing this process is obviously intent on pushing this proposal regardless of the significant gaps in cultural and traditional voices.

We find that the Diné must unite in developing an alternative to what is being processed by ONGDC. We find that we must assist in the development of a government which truly reflects the traditional laws and values of our Diné Way of Life. We, through our two associations, will work with those who believe that it is time to develop and implement a government created by the People themselves according to our own traditional values.

Any research or amendments on the Diné Fundamental Law must report to Diné traditional medicine - peoples and philosophers. The Associations are the sole Diné traditional practitioners and philosophers who must be included and provide approval in their medicine and healing areas. It is our inherent right and responsibility to uphold the Ni'hookáá Diyin Diné'é Natural law and work to protect the Ni'hookáá Diyin Diné'é Sacred holy Natural Cycle of Life. The Associations are the sole authority on our Diné Lifeway, not the government.

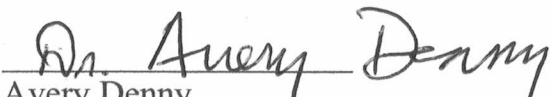
We must not continue to live under a government that we did not create. To assist in the development of this alternative, we recommend a title that properly uses our language and will serve as a guide in our historic effort. The title we suggest is: "Ni'hookáá Diyin Diné'é Binaachidí Nahat'á Nááhiil'naah Dóó Bindii'a' Íishjáni Ánálneéh."

Our two Associations intend to work together to do comprehensive community outreach to obtain input from all relevant voices. We encourage you to work with us to accomplish what has been desired by the Diné People for so long. To work with us, as caretakers of Mother Earth, to uphold the Ni'hookáá Diyin Diné'é Natural law as a foundation for all decision-making, from this point forward. We are sending a clear message to the people of the Navajo Nation, including public and private institutions and most of all the Navajo Tribal Government.

Sincerely,



Leland Grass
President, Diné Medicine Men Association, Inc



Avery Denny,
President, Diné Hataalii Association



Nihooka Diyin Diné

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May 18, 2026

The Dine Hataalii Association, Inc. and the Diné Medicine Men Association Inc. have reviewed the proposal for a new Navajo Nation constitution, prepared by the Government Reform Committee (GRC).

We are disappointed to say that the proposal is not ready to be advanced to a referendum vote. It has many problems with language, cultural concepts, Fundamental Law, and our traditions. Government Reform should advance our sovereignty by creating a government that is ours and reflects who we are as a People. This proposal weakens our sovereignty and puts in place a dangerous fourth branch of government that could override our elected officials without accountability to the People. The proposal would make investors' rights have the highest status by putting them in our constitution instead of in the Navajo Nation Code. The proposal would transfer Navajo Nation businesses to a few individuals, instead of preserving them for the benefit of all. This would create wealth for a few at the cost of the community as a whole. It would also allow the sale of land, and encourage mining and other extraction industries. Land sales and disempowerment of tribal government were things the United States government did to the tribes in Oklahoma to try to eliminate them. We should not do it to ourselves.

Our two medicine men's Associations will work together to do community outreach and to create a proposal that preserves our culture and traditions, improves government accountability, and protects our sacred land, air, water, plants, animals, and fire.

We encourage the Dine to learn about the GRC proposal and work with your delegates to improve it.