

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0023-25

SPONSOR: Casey Allen Johnson

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development Committee;
Confirming Walter Phelps to serve on the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry
Board of Directors for a term of three years representing Western Agency**

Date posted: March 03, 2025 at 5:41 PM.

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0023-25

DATE: March 3, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; CONFIRMING WALTER PHELPS TO SERVE ON THE NAVAJO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS REPRESENTING WESTERN AGENCY

PURPOSE: The purpose of the resolution is to confirm the appointment of Mr. Walter Phelps to the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry Board of Directors for a term of three years representing Western Agency.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Resources and Development Committee

VOTE REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority Vote

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD Al Mike III
Website Posting Time/Date _____
Posting End Date: 03-08-25
Eligible for Action: 03-09-25

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Third Year, 2025

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5
6 Primary Sponsor

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0023-25

9
10 AN ACTION
11 RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE;
12 CONFIRMING WALTER PHELPS TO SERVE ON THE NAVAJO
13 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A
14 TERM OF THREE YEARS REPRESENTING WESTERN AGENCY

15
16 BE IT RESOLVED:

17 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 18 A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing of the Navajo Nation
19 Council. 2 N.N.C. § 500 (A).
20 B. The President of the Navajo Nation appoints, and the Resources and Development
21 Committee confirms, the Board of Directors to the Navajo Agricultural Products
22 Industry. 5 N.N.C. § 603 (A). References made to the former Economic
23 Development Committee in the Navajo Nation Code shall mean the Resources and
24 Development Committee. See CO-45-12, Section 5 (A).

25
26 SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- 27 A. Pursuant to 5 N.N.C. § 1603 (B), the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (or
28 “NAPI”) “shall set policy including, but not limited to, establishing personnel
29 policies, procurement policies and financial policies for NAPI. The Board of
30 Directors shall hire and supervise the Chief Executive Officer who shall hire under

1 contract a Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall be accountable
2 to the Board of the Directors and to the Chief Executive Officer and shall be
3 supervised by the Chief Executive Officer in conformity with job descriptions
4 established for the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Executive Officer, and
5 with Navajo Agricultural Products Industry's approved policies and procedures.
6 The Chief Financial Officer shall submit all monthly, quarterly and annual reports
7 to the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors simultaneously."

8 B. Pursuant to 5 N.N.C. § 1603(D), "[n]o elected official of the federal, state or Navajo
9 Nation government shall be a member of the Board of Directors. No employee of
10 the federal, state or Navajo Nation government shall be a member of the Board of
11 Directors."

12 C. Pursuant to 5 N.N.C. § 1604, "[t]he Navajo Agricultural Products Industry shall
13 operate under the legislative oversight of the Resources and Development
14 Committee of the Navajo Nation Council...NAPI shall operate pursuant to a Plan
15 of Operation recommended by the NAPI Board of Directors in consultation with
16 the President of the Navajo Nation and adopted by the Resources and Development
17 Committee of the Navajo Nation Council."

18 D. Pursuant to RDCS-049-19, the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry's Amended
19 Plan of Operation, Article 5 (A), "NAPI shall be managed by a Board of Directors
20 that shall provide governance and oversight of the organization, subject to the
21 restrictions of this Plan of Operation and applicable law. The Board shall consist
22 of five (5) members from the Western, Chinle, and Eastern Agencies of the Navajo
23 Nation. At least one Director shall be from District 13 and one Director shall be
24 from District 19."

25 E. Pursuant to RDCS-049-19, the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry's Amended
26 Plan of Operation, Article (C) and (D) state the qualifications and term of service:
27 "(C) Qualifications. Each Director shall have substantial business experience which
28 shall include, but not be limited to agribusiness and/or business marketing,
29 livestock, agricultural economics and finance, irrigation and P.L. 93-638
30 contracting. It is preferred that each Director shall have knowledge of corporate

1 and/or business financial statements and capital investment planning and shall
2 possess a Bachelor's degree from a recognized and accredited four-year institution
3 of higher learning. Preference in the appointment of Directors shall be given to
4 Navajos...(D) Term of Office. Directors shall serve staggered terms of three (3)
5 years and may be reappointed to serve additional terms."

6 F. The President of the Navajo Nation, by letter dated February 18, 2025, attached as
7 **Exhibit A**, states that Mr. Walter Phelps meets the requirements of 5 N.N.C. §
8 1603(D) and the Navajo Agricultural Product Industry's Plan of Operation and has
9 appointed Mr. Phelps to the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry Board of
10 Directors.

11 G. Mr. Walter Phelps's letter of interest, resume, and Certificate of Navajo Indian
12 Blood are attached hereto as **Exhibits B, C, and D**, respectively.

13
14 **SECTION THREE. CONFIRMATION**

15 The Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council hereby
16 confirms the appointment of Mr. Walter Phelps to the Navajo Agricultural Products
17 Industry Board of Directors for a term of three years representing Western Agency.
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30