RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

22nd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—FOURTH YEAR, 2014

AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND FINANCE, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, NAABIK'ÍYÁTİ’ AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 24 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE BY ENACTING THE HEALTHY DINÉ NATION ACT OF 2014

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Findings

The Navajo Nation finds the following with respect to this resolution.

A. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service, there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range. Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention, Indian Health Service Headquarters (2012). Unpublished, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indian Health Service. Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention (2012), Annual diabetes clinical outcomes audit and Navajo sweet success annual audit (a tracking tool) (2012). Unpublished, Navajo Area Indian Health Service, St. Michaels, Arizona.

B. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000 per person. O’Connell JM, Wilson C, Manson SM, & Acton KJ (2012). The costs of treating American Indian adults with diabetes within the Indian Health Service, research and practice. American Indian Journal of Public Health.
C. According to the Navajo Area [Indian Health Service, IHS] GPRA Report 2009, of the obesity rate within the seven (7) Navajo Area IHS service units ranged from 23% to 60%, the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups, and overall, “the highest percentage of patients identified as obese are those ages 25 to 54, the highest service unit is Tuba City with 60 % of those with calculated BMIs.” Navajo Area Indian Health Service (2009). Navajo area GPRA report 2009: government performance results act, (GPRA) program assessment rating tool (PART) report (07/1/08-06/30/09). Unpublished, St. Michaels, Arizona.

D. According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, “each year, more than 13,000 young people are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes” and “health care providers are finding more and more children with type 2 diabetes, a disease usually diagnosed in adults aged 40 years or older.” For only American Indians, there is a “statistically significant increase in the prevalence of type 2 diabetes among children and adolescents.” Center of Disease Control and Prevention (2013). Children and diabetes. http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/projects/cda2.htm

E. According to the Mayo Clinic, primary risk factors of Type 2 Diabetes in children are overweight, obesity, inactivity, race, and family history. Symptoms can include increased thirst, increased urination, increased hunger, weight loss, fatigue, blurred vision, slow-healing sores or frequent infections, areas of and darkened skin. Complications can include heart and blood vessel disease, increased risk cardiovascular problems, including heart disease, stroke, high cholesterol and high blood pressure, nerve damage (neuropathy), kidney damage (nephropathy), eye damage, foot damage, and skin conditions. Mayo Clinic (2014). Type 2 diabetes in children. http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/type-2-diabetes-in-children/basics/definition/con-20030124

F. According to the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, “consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs), particularly carbonated soft drinks, may be a key contributor to the epidemic of overweight and obesity, by
virtue of these beverages' high added sugar content, low satiety, and incomplete compensation for total energy." There is a "positive association between greater intakes of SSBs and weight gain and obesity in both children and adults" and the "weight of epidemiologic and experimental evidence indicates that a greater consumption of SSBs is associated with weight gain and obesity." There is "sufficient evidence [that] exists for public health strategies to discourage consumption of sugary drinks as part of a healthy lifestyle." Malik, Vasanti S., Schulze, Matthias B., and Hu, Frank B. (2006). Intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and weight gain: a systematic review. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. Aug 2006; 84(2): 274-288. http://ajcn.nutrition.org/content/84/2/274.long

G. According to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, "the right to food is a human right recognized under international law that protects the right of all human beings to feed themselves in dignity, either by producing their food or by purchasing it." Resolution NNHRCFeb-02-09.

H. According to the New York Times Magazine cover story "The Extraordinary Science of Addictive Junk Food" states that people are "addicted to junk food" and "this addiction will only deepen as the food industry continues to find new ways to get people hooked on foods that are convenient and inexpensive." Kalaidis, Jen. (2013). Should the U.S. adopt a fat tax? The Week.

I. According to the British Medical Journal, economists agree that "government intervention, including taxation, is justified when the market fails to provide the optimum amount of a good for society's well-being." Kalaidis, Jen. (2013). Should the U.S. adopt a fat tax? The Week.

K. According to the Diné Food Sovereignty report, “the United States Department of Agriculture identifies nearly all of the Navajo Nation’s 27,000 square miles as a food desert,” which is defined as “an area, either urban or rural, without access to affordable fresh and healthy foods” and where “heavily processed foods are often readily available.” Diné Policy Institute (2014). Diné food sovereignty: a report on the Navajo Nation food system and the case to rebuild a self-sufficient food system for the Diné people. http://www.dinecollege.edu/institutes/DPI/Docs/dpi-food-sovereignty-report.pdf

L. According to the Tsehootsooi Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment, 86.74% of respondents recommended facilities needed in their community: walking trails, 42.54%; recreational, 60.87%; playground, 46.87%; and other, 8.47%. Health programs were recommended by 88.77% of the respondents with the following: CPR classes, 33.89%; cultural classes/resources, 34.35%; fitness instruction, 52.95%; health education/programs, 50.09%; nutrition classes, 52.12%; parenting groups, 37.66%; and other, 8.66%. Clichee, Dominic, M. (2013). Tsehootsooi Medical Center community health needs assessment. http://www.fdihb.org/files/downloads/TMC%20CHA%20v3_2%20implementation%20plans.pdf

M. According to the Chinle Health Council Community Health Assessment, community respondents identified diabetes, obesity, and unhealthy foods as the top three important health issues in their communities, with diabetes as the number one health issue in the Chinle communities. Respondents identified “Wellness/Health education (Nutrition), Community events, Wellness Center” as the “most important factors for a healthy community.” Respondents rated the health of their community with the following “Nutrition/bad food, Exercise, Unidentified illness/sickness/disease.” Lynch, Patrick D. & Clichee, Dominic M. (2012). Chinle Health Council community health assessment. Unpublished, Chinle Health Council.
N. The revenue generated from the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2014 will be earmarked for chapters to plan for community originated wellness projects such as farming and vegetable gardens; greenhouses; farmers’ markets; healthy convenience stores; clean water; clean communities; wellness/exercise equipment and supplies; skate parks; health classes; parks; traditional, intergenerational, and contemporary wellness; traditional and non-traditional healthy food preparation classes; food processing and storage facilities; health food initiatives; community food cooperatives; playgrounds; basketball courts; walking, running, biking trails; picnic grounds, swimming pools; emergency preparedness; agricultural, recreational, health, youth clubs; library; Navajo traditional craft classes, equine therapy, health coaching; and any other community-based wellness projects to address improvements to physical and social environment of the community that are planned, implemented, directed, and reported by members of the Navajo Nation communities.

O. The Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2014 is to take responsibility of our health crisis, to raise awareness of unhealthy foods, to empower everyone to lead productive and healthy lives. This Act will impact physical and social environment where communities are empowered to take positive action; improve local capacity for wellness and improved health; make healthy food available and easily accessible; provide communities with clean water and recycling centers; reduce rates of chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, heart diseases, cancer, etc.; preserve Diné tradition, culture, and language; preserve Diné traditional food; maintain a healthy weight; improve academic achievement of healthy children and youth; generate active and healthy communities; foster well-informed, educated communities about health and wellness to make positive, healthy choices, healthy individuals and families; build a healthy, thriving, and productive workforce; promote healthy businesses; reduce health care costs; to save lives and money; and to allow the people to take ownership of healthy initiatives; to protect and preserve our population for future healthy generations.

P. It is the intent of the Navajo Nation Council, by approving the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2014 to diminish the human and economic costs of obesity and diabetes on the Navajo
Nation. The intent is to improve health by creating the environment that supports health and wellness with a dedicated revenue source for Community Wellness Projects designed by Navajo Nation Chapters to prevent obesity, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, and other such health conditions by discouraging excessive consumption of sweetened beverages and minimal to no nutritional value food items high in sugar, salt, and saturated fat.

Q. There is public support for the proposed tax on sweetened beverages and minimal-to-no nutritional value food items among communities across the Navajo Nation. Navajo Nation Chapter Resolutions and resolutions from other entities in support of a tax on minimal-to-no nutritional value food items are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

R. The Navajo Nation finds it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to amend Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code and to enact the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2014.

Section 2. Amendments to Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code

The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code, 24 N.N.C. §§ 1001-1024, as follows:

NAVAJO NATION CODE ANNOTATED
TITLE 24. TAXATION
CHAPTER 11. HEALTHY DINÉ NATION ACT OF 2014

§1001. Short title

The tax imposed by this Chapter shall be called the "Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2014".

§1002. Purpose

The Navajo Nation Council hereby enacts this tax for the privilege of engaging in retail business activity within the Navajo Nation, and for purposes of defraying necessary governmental expenses at the national and local level incurred in providing for the public welfare.
§1003. Tax Imposed

A tax is hereby imposed on the gross receipts of a retail business person. The tax due for a period is determined by first calculating applicable gross receipts from all minimal-to-no nutritional value food items sold for a period, and then multiplying those gross receipts from all minimal-to-no nutritional value food items sold by the applicable tax rate. This tax shall be reviewed at the end of the calendar year 2034 unless extended for extension by the Navajo Nation Council.

§1004. Legal Incidence and Responsibility for Payment

The person liable for the payment of the tax imposed by this Chapter is the person receiving the gross receipts from the sale of minimal-to-no nutritional value food item(s).

§1005. Rate of Tax

The rate shall be two percent (2%) of all minimal-to-no nutritional value food item(s) sold (.02 x all minimal-to-no nutritional value food item(s) sold).

§1006. Administration

All provisions of the Uniform Tax Administration Statute apply to this Chapter.

§1007. Definitions

Subject to additional definitions (if any) contained in the subsequent sections of this Chapter, and unless the context otherwise requires, in this Chapter:

A. "Community Wellness Projects" means Navajo Nation Chapter community-based, community-owned wellness projects to address improvements to the physical and social environment of the community because of the need to prevent and/or reduce the incidence of obesity and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. Projects may include: farming and vegetable gardens; greenhouses; farmers' markets; healthy convenience stores; clean water; clean communities; wellness/exercise equipment and supplies; skate parks; health classes; parks;
traditional, intergenerational, and contemporary wellness; traditional and non-traditional healthy food preparation classes; food processing and storage facilities; health food initiatives; community food cooperatives; playgrounds; basketball courts; walking, running, biking trails; picnic grounds, swimming pools; emergency preparedness; agricultural, recreational, health, youth clubs; library; Navajo traditional craft classes, equine therapy, health coaching; and any other community-based wellness projects to address improvements to physical and social environment of the community that are planned, implemented, directed, and reported by members of the Navajo Nation communities.

B. “Minimal-to-no nutritional value food” means sweetened beverages and prepackaged and non-prepackaged snacks stripped of essential nutrients and high in salt, saturated fat, and sugar including sweetened beverages, sweets, chips, and crisps.

   i. “Sweetened beverages” means a beverage, whether carbonated or noncarbonated in any form sold for human consumption. It shall include: soda; flavored water; sports drinks; energy drinks; fountain drinks; iced coffee; iced tea; flavored drinks; drinks containing sugar with natural fruit juice, natural vegetable juice, fruit juice, or vegetable juice; a powder, or base product as a liquid for sale.

   ii. “Sweets” means any preparation that has a high content of sugar, sometimes in combination with flour, milk, butter, shortening, eggs, dried fruits, nuts, etc., such as candy, frozen desserts, pastries, pudding and gelatin based desserts or baked and fried goods.

   iii. “Snack chips and Crisps” (sodium and saturated fat) means crispy type snack foods that are often fried, baked, or toasted, such as potato chips, tortilla chips, pita chips, or cheese puffs that are high in sodium and fat.

   iii. “Snack chips and Crisps” (sodium and saturated fat) means crispy type snack foods that are often fried, baked, or toasted, such as potato chips,
tortilla chips, pita chips, or cheese puffs that are high in sodium and fat.

iii. "Snack chips and Crisps" (sodium and saturated fat) means crispy type snack foods that are often fried, baked, or toasted, such as potato chips, tortilla chips, pita chips, or cheese puffs that are high in sodium and fat.

iv. "Sugar" includes sugar confections but not limited to sucrose, dextrose fructose, corn syrup, high-fructose corn syrup, dextrin, galactose, glucose, honey, lactose, fructose, other processed caloric sweeteners, and those derived from fruit juice.

v. "Corn syrup" means syrup made from cornstarch, consisting of dextrose, maltose and dextrins.

vi. "Sweetener" includes artificial sweetener, which includes aspartame, saccharin, sucralose, stevia, cyclamate, xylitol, mogrosides, and many others.

vii. "Natural fruit juice or fruit juice" means the original liquid resulting from the pressing of fruit, the liquid resulting from the reconstitution of fruit juice concentrate of the liquid resulting from the restoration of fruit concentrate or the liquid resulting from the restoration of water to dehydrated fruit juice.

viii. "Natural vegetable juice or vegetable juice" means the original liquid resulting from the pressing of one or more vegetables. Liquid resulting from the reconstitution of vegetable juice concentrate or the liquid resulting from the restoration of water to dehydrated vegetable juice.

ix. "Powder or base product" means a solid mixture of basic ingredients, including sugar, used in making, mixing or compounding soft drinks by mixing the powder of other base product with water, ice
syrup, simple syrup, fruits, vegetables, fruit juice or any other product suitable to make a sweetened beverage.

x. “Candy” means snacks prepared of sugar, honey, salt, saturated fat, other natural or artificial sweeteners in combination with chocolate; dried fruits; fudge; marshmallows; nuts; mints; peanut brittle; white flour; other ingredients or flavorings in many forms such as soft, hard, bars, drops, liquid, spray, floss, carbonated, crystallized, tape, paper, thread, chewy, jelly, gum, powder or pieces.

xi. “Frozen desserts” means any sweet item made by freezing liquid or semisolids, based on naturally and/or artificially flavored water, fruit purees, dairy or dairy substitutes, custards; combined with fruits, nuts, candy, sweets, or other ingredients.

xii. “Pastries” consist of any mixed, baked, or fried products made primarily but not exclusively from any form of flour, sugar, artificial sweeteners, dairy, shortening, oil, butter, baking powder, nuts, fruits, eggs, jelly, and other filling ingredients.

xiii. “Pudding and gelatin based desserts” means any soft, colorful or colorless, sweet preparation based, which could include dairy, eggs, sugar, or other sweeteners, collagen, cornstarch, or any other flavorings.

xiv. “Baked and fried goods” means baked or fried dough, batter, mixes, and decoration products such as cakes, cookies, and pastries that are high in saturated fat and/or sugar.

§1008 Navajo Nation Government

A. Sales by corporations owned by the Navajo Nation government or any political subdivision thereof shall be fully subject to the tax imposed by this Chapter.
B. Sales by the government of the Navajo Nation, or political subdivisions or enterprises thereof, shall be subject to the tax imposed by this Chapter.

§1009. Reserved

§1011. Reserved

§1012. Filing of Return

A. Each person must file a return indicating all sales from applicable gross receipts and the tax due under this Chapter for each period by the fifteenth day of the second month after the end of each calendar quarter. Returns are due on February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15 of each calendar year.

B. The Commission may by form or regulation require that other information, records or relevant documents which it deems necessary for the proper and efficient administration of this Chapter be included with the return and signed by a specified person.

C. No return need be filed by any person who is exempt under §609, provided that the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission may require such person to file the information necessary to establish its exempt status.

D. In the case of the exemption provided for in §609(A), the filing by a person of a proper certificate of exemption with the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission shall constitute a claim for exemption.

§1013. Payment of Tax

Payment in full of the taxes owed for a particular period is due on the same date that the completed return for that same period is due. The Office of the Navajo Tax Commission, however, may require payment of any taxes due on a monthly basis.
§1014. Recordkeeping

A. Each person shall keep all records which pertain to or relate in any manner to all sales from any business activity engaged in at any time by such person. Such records shall be maintained separately for each reporting period during which a person is engaged in business activity.

B. Records required to be kept must be preserved for four years beyond the end of the period for which the records relate.

§1015. Reserved

§1016. Reserved

§1017. Reserved

§1018. Reserved

§1019. Reserved

§1020. Allocation of Revenue

After allocation to permanent or special revenue funds as required by Navajo Nation law, and allocation to the Tax Administration Suspense Fund as required by the fiscal policy adopted by the Navajo Tax Commission for such Fund, the net revenue from this Chapter shall be disbursed as follows:

A. One hundred percent (100%) of the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2014 revenue collected from retail establishments located in the Navajo Nation shall be deposited into the Community Wellness Development Projects Fund to be appropriated pursuant to a fund management plan approved by
the Budget and Finance Committee and administered by the Division of Community Development; and

B. The Division shall disburse the funds to the chapters as seed money for leverage to initiate, match, and/or improve community wellness projects.

1021. No Conflict with Local Governance Act

The provisions of this Chapter and corresponding regulations shall not be construed inconsistently with the Local Governance Act, 26 N.N.C §§ 1-2008.

§1022. Severability

If any provision of this Chapter, as amended, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held invalid by a final judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this Chapter are severable.

§1023. Reserved

§1024. Repeals

All laws or parts of laws (or attachments thereto) which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter are hereby repealed, including, without limitation, any law purporting to waive any right of taxation by the Navajo Nation.

Section 3. Development of a Fund Management Plan

The Division of Community Development is hereby directed to develop a Community Wellness Development Projects Fund Management Plan.
Section 4. Effective Date

The amendments enacted herein shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §221(B), and after the Navajo Tax Commission has promulgated the regulations, but no later than October 1, 2014.

Section 5. Codification

The provisions of the Act which amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

Section 6. Savings Clause

Should any portion of the amendment enacted herein be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or the District Court of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those portions not determined invalid shall remain in law of the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 10 in favor and 4 opposed, this 14th day of November 2014.

[Signature]
LoRenzo Bates, Pro Tem Speaker
Navajo Nation Council

11-17-14
Date

Motion: Honorable Jonathan Nez
Second: Honorable Nelson BeGaye
ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I hereby sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C)(10), on this ______ day of NOV 21 2014 2014.

   Ben Shelly, President
   Navajo Nation

2. I hereby veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (11), this ______ day of _________ 2014 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

   Ben Shelly, President
   Navajo Nation
RESOLUTION OF THE BAHAST'AH CHAPTER
Resolution No. BAIA 3-10-13-VIIK

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Bahast’ah Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and Junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sugars in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will
reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the proposed tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Bahast'ah Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Bahast’ah Chapter at a duly called meeting at Bahast’ah Chapter, Navajo Nation, New Mexico at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 75 in favor, 00 opposed, and 02 abstained this 10th day of March 2013.

Motion: Rob Sandoval
Second: Sally Ann Begay

[Signatures]
March 12, 2013

Becenti Chapter
Land Use Planning Committee
P.O. Box 708
Crownpoint, New Mexico 87313

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support and/or endorsement for the Diniego Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation. The advocacy group is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Indian Reservation.

Due to the high consumption of these items in convenience stores, grocery stores and trading posts, revenues generated in the form of sales tax will be utilized by the consumers of the Navajo Nation.

The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has provided an environment on the Navajo Nation that has led to decreased health and well-being among the Navajo People. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers to make the appropriate choices necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NDCD) that provides funding to the one hundred ten (110) Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be made available to be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities to include the following:

1. Wellness Centers
2. Basketball Courts/Processing/Storage Facilities
3. Walking/Running/Biking Trails
4. Intergenerational & Traditional Wellness Classes
5. Family/Community Picnic Grounds
6. Traditional Food Cooking Classes
7. Navajo Cooperatives w/ Food
8. Traditional Food Education
9. Community Gardens
10. Community Parks/ Playgrounds
11. Farmers Markets

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees that act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership. If there are any questions, please don’t hesitate to call a Diniego Community Advocacy Alliance member at 928 729-2536. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Perry, President
Community Land Use Planning Committee
RESOLUTION OF THE BECENTI NAVAJO CHAPTER
RESOLUTION NO: BNC-111813-6

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA)
SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING
A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to Navajo Tribal Council Resolution CJ-20-55 Becenti Navajo Chapter is a duly
   certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation and is vested with the authority to address and resolve
   local matters and issues in the best interest of the Chapter and Community members and
   coordinate with or refer appropriate subject matters to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County
   and Municipal governments; and

2. By Resolution CAP-34-98 the Navajo Nation Council enacted the Navajo Nation Local
   Governance Act and is codified at Title Twenty Six (26) of the Navajo Nation Code; and

3. The Local Governance Act recognizes governance at the local level which consequently delegates
   to Chapters certain governmental authority to deal with local matters consistent with Navajo law,
   custom and tradition and the Act clearly defines the executive and legislative functions of the
   Chapter including the duties and responsibilities of Chapter officials and Chapter administrators
   which are uniform with the Navajo Nation's policy of separation of powers and checks and
   balances; and

4. The Local Governance Act promotes local autonomy with a desired outcome of improved
   community decision making, excelling and flourishing communities, enabling local Navajo
   leaders to guide the community towards a prosperous future and improving the supremacy
   and sovereignty of the Navajo Nation and concurrently governing with responsibility and
   accountability to the local citizens; and

5. The Becenti Navajo Chapter has not received governance certification yet, but is of the opinion
   that the powers and authority granted to the Chapter when it was initially established and certified
   as a political subdivision of the Navajo Nation was never diminished; and

6. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes
   70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

7. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related
   complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

8. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Services there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and
   another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of
Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI's) in the overweight or obese range; and

9. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

10. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

11. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

12. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

13. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

14. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

15. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running, and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

16. There is overwhelming public support for the proposed tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Becenti Navajo Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverages/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was considered by the people of the Becenti Navajo Chapter at a duly called meeting at Becenti, (Navajo Nation) New Mexico at which a quorum was present and was passed with a motion by Mary Frances Joe, seconded by Dan Vicenti with a vote of 34 in favor, 0 opposed and 10 abstention this 23rd day of December 2012.

Charles Long, Secretary/Treasurer
SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The K’ai’Bi’i’To’ Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation: and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children: and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy BMI’s (Body Mass Index) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. Indian Health Service estimates that it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes and the cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the six service units and two service areas of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and
10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit-drinks, fruit-punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight, obesity, and Diabetes, and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The K'ai'Bii'To' Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Kaibeto Chapter at a duly called meeting in Kaibeto, Navajo Nation, Az., at which a quorum of Chapter members was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 29 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained this 14th day of October, 2012.

Kelsey A. Begaye, President
Ernest Goatson, Vice-President
Linda Israel, Sec/Treas.

Elroy Martin, Grazing Official
Duane Tsingine, Council Delegate

motion: Sane Saloo
second: Brin White rock
RESOLUTION OF THE LAKE VALLEY CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Lake Valley Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 105 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success date reports the following in 2011; 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complication; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and
12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Lake Valley Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Lake Valley Chapter at a duly called meeting at Lake Valley Chapter, Navajo Nation, (New Mexico) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of __ in favor, __ opposed, and __ abstained this 17th day of March 2013. Motion by _____________ and Second by _____________.

Tony Padilla Jr., Chapter President

Edison P. Tso, Chapter Vice President

Betty S. Donelson, Secretary/Treasurer

Not in Attendance

Danny Simpson, Council Delegate
SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGE/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The LeChee Chapter is certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 AND 4029(A) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County, and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the member of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter Pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative affect on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajo with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate range from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for development for Type 2 diabetes in youth; and
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contributes to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest source of added sweeteners in the United States Diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increase their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drinks consumptions increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sport drinks, etc. And junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc. will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The LeChee Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverages/Junk food Taxation initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the LeChee Chapter at a duly called meeting at LeChee Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of _27_ in favor, _1_ opposed, and _1_ abstained this 11th day of March 2013.

Motion: Ivan Gamble

Irene Nez-Whitekiller, Chapter President

Second: Betty Thompson

Yvonne Bigman, Chapter Vice-President

Elizabeth Nez, Chapter Secretary

Sara Dale, Grazing Committee Member
RESOLUTION
OF
THE LITTLEWATER CHAPTER OF EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR SWEETENED
BEVERAGE/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX
INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 3 (A) the Littlewater Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter under the Navajo Nation Government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., part 1, section 10, and

2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 1 (B) Littlewater Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate correction when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions, and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and
10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drink, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Littlewater Chapter of Eastern Navajo Agency supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was duly considered by and moved for adoption by Shelly Biakniddy, seconded by Christina Platero, thoroughly discussed and adopted by a vote of 14 in favor 10 opposed and 03 abstained at a duly called meeting at Littlewater Chapter, Navajo Nation (New Mexico) on this 13th day of March 2013.

George Jim, Chapter President
Paul D. Pablo, Chapter Vice-President

June Barbone, Secretary/Treasurer
RESOLUTION OF THE OJO ENCINO CHAPTER

RESOLUTION OJOE 03-08-13/001

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DDCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNKFOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 3 (A) the Ojo Encino Chapter is a duly recognized Certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation Government as listed at 11 N.N.C. Part 1, Section 10; and

2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 1(B) Ojo Encino Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate correction when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 community advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The sweet success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes: 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy body mass index (BMIs) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

George Werito, Chapter President
Jeanette Vice, Chapter Vice President
Brandon Sam, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Gloria Chiquito, Chapter Manager
Leonard Tsosie, Council Delegate
Elizabeth Stoney, Land Board Member
9. Sugar-Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to included chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc. will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The Revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the purpose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Ojo Encino Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar-Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the forgoing resolution was duly considered by the Ojo Encino Chapter at a duly called meeting at Ojo Encino Chapter, New Mexico, Navajo Nation. At which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 17 in favor, 01 opposed, and 13 abstained this 08th day of March 2013.

Motioned: Tom Jim Sala

George Werito, Chapter President

Second: Tony Castillo

Jeanette Vice, Chapter Vice-President

Brandon Sam, Secretary/Treasurer
RESOLUTION OF
STEAMBOAT COMMISSION GOVERNMENT
STEAMBOAT CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to TCDC Resolution TCDYMT-60-03; Steamboat Chapter is a local Governance Act ("LGA") certified Chapter authorized to exercise certain governance authorities contained within 26 N.N.C. § 103, with the exception of land administration authority pursuant to 26 N.N.C. §103 (D) (l); and

2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-51-04, Steamboat Chapter is a Governance Certified Chapter authorized to exercise certain authorities within 26 N.N.C.; and

3. The Steamboat Chapter is delegated to act within its authority to review all local matters affecting the Community members consistent with Navajo Nation law, including custom and tradition which compel the chapter to govern with responsibility and accountability to the community members; and

4. The Steamboat community voted and approved on August 23, 2011 an Alternative Form of Government to change to Commission-Manager Style Government, and

5. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

6. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

7. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service, there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

8. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

9. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the
Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

10. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

11. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

12. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

13. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

14. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

15. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE STEAMBAT COMMISSION HEREBY SUPPORTS THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Steamboat Commission Government at a duly called meeting in Steamboat, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present, motioned by Deborah Cavadiote and seconded by Wallace Tsoio, and that the same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed, 0 abstained, this 1st day of March 2013.

Matthew Noble
Commission President
RESOLUTION OF THE TS’AH BII KIN CHAPTER

TBK 2013-076-0

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE IN THE NAVAJO NATION

HEREAS:
The Ts’ah Bii Kin Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate commendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and
Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and
The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and
The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its cumulative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and
According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and
At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and
In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and
Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development of Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and
An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and
The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people.

The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities in accordance with local Community Land Plans approved by Navajo Nation chaptersto plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as fitness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnics, and health education classes.

IV, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Here is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food across the Navajo Nation.

Ts'ah Bii Kin Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Tax Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax base on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly presented and considered by the Ts'ah Bii Kin Chapter a called meeting at Ts'ah Bii Kin Chapter at Ts'ah Bii Kin, Arizona, Navajo Nation, at which a quorum was present that same was passed with a vote of 21 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstained this 10 day of March 2013.

First:

Ovetta Tisi

Cha Tate, Chapter President

Second:

Mary Begay

Geraldine Chee, Chapter Vice-President

Nancie Nle

Arinda Soto, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate
WHITE CONE CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 3338
INDIAN WELLS, ARIZONA 85031
Telephone: (928) 654-3900
Fax: (928) 654-3901

RESOLUTION OF THE WHITE CONE CHAPTER
Resolution No. WC-12-10-070

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The White Cone Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. Indian Health Service estimates that it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes and the cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the six service units and two service areas of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day...
consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of a two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The White Cone Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly presented and considered by the White Cone Chapter at a duly called meeting at White Cone Chapter at White Cone, Navajo County, New Mexico or Arizona, Navajo Nation, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed and 4 abstained this 16th day of October, 2012.

Motion: Elmer Dick

Second: Melvin Williams

Chapter President

Chapter Vice-President

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF THE EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

1. Eastern Navajo Agency Council (ENAC) is a political sub-unit of the Navajo Nation and is comprised of representatives from 31 Navajo Chapters from within Eastern Navajo Agency, Navajo Nation and is authorized to act as the representative voice of the 31 Navajo Chapters; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 39% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and;

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by
children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 36% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that this foregoing resolution was duly discussed at a duly called agency council meeting, with quorum present; the same was passed by a vote of in favor, opposed, abstained, this 1st day of December 1, 2012 at Crownpoint Mid-School, Crownpoint, New Mexico.

Motion by: David Lee
Second by: McGarel Pablo
Johnny Johnson, President
EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

Charles Long, Vice-President
EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

Fernie Yazzie, Secretary/Treasurer
EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION OF THE WHITEHORSE LAKE CHAPTER
Resolution No. WBLR-01-37-13

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Whitehorse Lake Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drink, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Whitehorse Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Whitehorse Lake Chapter at a duly called meeting at Whitehorse Lake Chapter, Navajo Nation, (New Mexico) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 12th day of March, 2013.

Motion: Jonathan Nolan  
Second: Thomas Chiquito  

Chae Smith, Jr., President  
Janie B. Jim, Secretary/Treasurer  

Fernando Yabany, Vice-President  
Leonard Tsosie, Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF THE EASTERN NAVAJO HEALTH BOARD

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A ONE PERCENT (1%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Eastern Navajo Health Board was established by Navajo Tribal Council Resolution, CMY-46-80, and is given the responsibility of promoting the interest and welfare of the Navajo People regarding all health and health-related plans and;

2. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

3. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

4. According to Navajo Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

5. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

6. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

7. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

8. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

9. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

10. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and
11. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Eastern Navajo Health Board of the Navajo Nation supports the proposed tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.
2. The Eastern Navajo Health Board of the Navajo Nation supports and accepts the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 1% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Eastern Navajo Health Board and community at a duly called meeting at the Eastern Navajo Health Board meeting in Crownpoint, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and was passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention, on the 3rd day of December 03, 2012.

Motioned:
Anita David

Seconded:
Martha Charley

[Signature]
Lenajean Morgan, Vice Chair
Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxes and Sugar Intake: Policy Statements, Endorsements, and Recommendations
Updated October 2012

Click on the organization name to link to its statement.

Acknowledgement of Taxes as a Public Health Strategy

American Medical Association Policy Statement, June 2012.
Taxes on beverages with added sweeteners are one means by which consumer education campaigns and other obesity-related programs could be financed in a stepwise approach to addressing the obesity epidemic. Where taxes on beverages with added sweeteners are implemented, the revenue should be used primarily for programs to prevent and/or treat obesity and related conditions.

Policy Statement/Resolution in Support of Taxes

Implement a tax strategy to discourage consumption of food and beverages with minimal nutritional value, including a soda tax.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the US Conference of Mayors supports increased resources for cities to help combat obesity and fund obesity prevention, including consideration of revenues from the major leading contributors of the nation’s obesity epidemic, including calorically sweetened beverages, fast food and high calorie snacks.

Reports Recommending Taxes

Introduce an excise tax on the manufacture and importation of beverages sweetened with sugar or high-fructose corn syrup (non-diet soft drinks, sweetened fruit drinks, etc.) to reduce obesity-related healthcare costs.

Target obesity reduction through price incentives, such as sugar-sweetened beverage taxes, and through aggressive piloting and evaluation of other reforms that are designed to improve the evidence base of reforms that demonstrably reduce obesity — for example, community-, school-, and worksite interventions.

Promising interventions address both issues: A tax would help reduce overall consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and raise significant revenue to fund health prevention and treatment efforts for California children.
Institute of Medicine of the National Academies
• Local Government Actions to Prevent Childhood Obesity. Report Brief. September 2009, p.5. Implement a tax strategy to discourage consumption of foods and beverages that have minimal nutritional value, such as sugar-sweetened beverages.
• Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention. Solving the Weight of the Nation. Report Recommendations. May 2012, p.2. ...Implementing fiscal policies aimed at reducing overconsumption of sugar-sweetened beverages through (1) pricing and other incentives to make healthier beverage options recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans more affordable and, for governments, (2) substantial and specific excise taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages (for example, cents per ounce of liquid, cents per teaspoon of added sugar), with the revenues being dedicated to obesity prevention programs....

United Nations Report submitted by Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, December 2011, pp.17, 21. The introduction of food taxes and subsidies to promote a healthy diet constitutes a cost-effective and low-cost population-wide intervention that can have a significant impact. The report suggests that states impose taxes on soft drinks (sodas) and on foods high in saturated fats, trans-fatty acids, sodium and sugar, in order to subsidize access to fruits and vegetables and educational campaigns on healthy diets.

Urban Institute Reducing Obesity: Policy Strategies from the Tobacco Wars. July 2009, p. 19. Includes discussion of ...strategies that seem particularly promising in their potential impact...namely, excise or sales taxes on fattening food....

Vermont Attorney General’s Report Vermont Healthy Weight Initiative. November 2010, p. 2. An excise tax of not less than $.01 per ounce of SSB should be imposed to generate revenues for healthy weight initiatives and to substantially reduce the consumption of SSBs.

Endorsements of Tax

During the health care debate of 2009-2010, a number of organizations endorsed a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in a June 2009 letter to Senator Max Baucus, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. The text of the letter may be found here. Its signatories include:

- American Public Health Association
- American Society of Bariatric Physicians
- Black Women’s Health Imperative
- California Center for Public Health Advocacy
- California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
- Center for Science in the Public Interest
- Citizens’ Committee for Children
- Consumers Union
- Fitness Forward
- Oral Health America
- Partnership for Prevention
- Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
- Prevention Institute
- Shape Up America
- UC Berkeley’s Center for Health and Public Policy Studies
Recommendations to Continue Research On, or Consideration of, Taxes

Utilizing lessons learned in tobacco, strategies such as...taxing sugared beverages, should be part of a comprehensive approach to address obesity and the many factors contributing to the problem....With respect to the sugar beverage tax, the state should proceed cautiously and evaluate the impact carefully....

American Heart Association Position Statement on Beverage Taxes and Obesity Prevention, p. 3
The American Heart Association supports additional research to determine the efficacy of taxation policy on consumption trends, public health, the alternative choices consumers would make if they move away from sugar-sweetened beverages, the impact of these policies on disparate populations, and whether there are any unforeseen unintended consequences....

The potential of significant SSB [sugar-sweetened beverage] taxes to reduce obesity rates is supported by a number of studies....However, additional research is needed to fully determine the net impact of changes in SSB prices on overall caloric intake....

White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity: Solving the Problem of Childhood Obesity within a Generation. May 2010, p. 56.
State and local sales taxes imposed on soft drinks, candy, and snacks raise their cost relative to other food purchases...The potential influence of food prices on consumption necessitates consideration of the extent to which changes in farm, tax, and subsidy policies might affect consumption patterns.

Recommendations to Decrease Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Consumption

[Statement on Table 1.]
Reduce the intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and foods.

Guidance for pediatricians:
- Understand that energy drinks pose potential health risks primarily because of stimulant content; therefore, they are not appropriate for children and adolescents and should never be consumed.
- Counsel that routine ingestion of carbohydrate-containing sports drinks by children and adolescents should be avoided or restricted. Intake can lead to excessive caloric consumption and an increased risk of overweight and obesity as well as dental erosion.

American Medical Association Childhood Obesity Policy and Guidelines.
Limit sugar-sweetened beverages.

American Medical Athletic Association Fluid recommendations to stay safe in the heat.
During activity, avoid drinks with caffeine, high sugar content, alcohol or other carbonation because...fruit juices or soft drinks are high in sugar that slows fluid absorption by the body....
Communities should discourage consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

Strategy 7: Increase access to free, safe drinking water in public places to encourage water consumption instead of sugar-sweetened beverages.

National Association of County and City Health Officials Statement of Policy, Comprehensive Obesity Prevention. #10-01.
Local governments and recreation facilities should increase access to safe, free drinking water in public places to encourage consumption of water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages.

Partner with administrators to eliminate availability of sugar-sweetened beverages and high-calorie/low-nutrition snacks in schools and child care centers.

The Obesity Society supports the efforts of Mayor Bloomberg to ban the sale of sugar-sweetened beverages larger than 16 ounces. This is a measure that will help efforts to reduce consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, which research shows are a major contributor to increased calorie intake by both children and adults, thus potentially contributing to the nation’s obesity epidemic.

Reduce the incidence and prevalence of overweight and obesity of the US population by reducing overall calorie intake and increasing physical activity....To achieve this, Americans should...avoid sugar-sweetened beverages....

Recommendations to Decrease Sugar Consumption

...the American Heart Association recommends reductions in the intake of added sugars.

For diet, recommendations for populations and individuals should include the following:...limit the intake of free sugars.

Compiled by the Yale Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity
TIME-LINE

Dine’ Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA)

Proposed Navajo Nation Council Legislations

22nd Navajo Nation Council


March 2012

- March 21 – 22, 2012 – Community Advocacy Pre-Training Work Session and Training @ Navajoland Days Inn

June 2012

- June 19 – 20, 2012 – Community Advocacy Training @ Gallup Inn – Workshop #1
- June 21 -22, 2012 – Community Advocacy Training @ Gallup Inn – Workshop #2

August 2012

- August 14 – 15, 2012 - Community Advocacy Training @ Gallup Community Service Center – Workshop # 3
  - Danny Simpson and Ms. Kahn presenters
  - DCAA Core Group Established

September 2012

- September 19, 2012 – Meeting with Tax Commission
  - To introduce and provide an overview of the legislation
  - Tax office provided an overview of the Navajo Nation Tax Law

November 2012
November 20, 2012 - DCAA Tax Workshop @ Office of Navajo Tax Commission

December 2012

- December 10 – 12, 2012 – Navajo Wellness Model Training @ NavajoLand Days Inn
- December 13, 2012 – Community Advocacy Training Part IV @ Navajo Nation Museum
  - Began working on 2% Taxation Junk Food & Sweetened Beverage Presentation for NTC Naa’bik’iyati Committee

January 2013

- January 7, 2013 – Tax Commission Office Meeting
- January 9, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.)
  - Re-worked 2 hour presentation into 20 minute presentation
- January 10, 2013 - Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
  - No quorum. Made 2 hour presentation. Encouraged to move forward to NTC Education & Health Committee, Law & Order, Budget & Finance
- January 16, 2013 – DCAA Meeting & Facilitation Training @ IHS Area Office

February 2013

- February 11, 2013 – Navajo Division of Community Development (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
  - Provided a presentation and consulted with them regarding the language of the chapter resolution. Obtain support and partnership in creating community-based, community-owned wellness projects using the Local Governance Act: Local Community-wide Planning process and Community Land Use Planning.

March 2013

- March 18, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:30 a.m.)
- March 18, 2013 – Tax Commission Meeting (10:30 a.m.)
- March 18, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- March 27, 2013 – NTC Health & Education Committee < Miriam Meeting (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
  - No quorum
- March 29, 2013 – NTC Health & Education Committee Meeting (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) No

April 2013

- April 3, 2013 - NTC Health & Education Committee Meeting (Tabled)
  - Directed to meet with Navajo Division of Health, Navajo Division of Behavioral Health, Dine’ Institute of Policy
- April 18, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- April 23, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

May 2013

- May, 7, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- May, 13, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
• May 15, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
• May 15, 2013 – DCAA Meeting with President Shelly and VP Rex Lee Jim (9:00 a.m.)
• May 17, 2013 – DCAA Meeting Kahn (Legislative Council, Mr. Larry Curley and Sonlasta Jim-Martín, NDOH) 10:00 a.m.
• May 23, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
• May 29, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
• May 30, 2013 – “Partner’s Gathering,” at Dine’ College (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) June 3, 2013

June 2013

• June 3, 2013 – DCAA Meeting with Navajo Division of Health (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
  ○ Navajo Division of Health, Sunshine Martin-Jim, Mae-Giilene Begay, and Madan Paudel
• June 11-12, 2013 – “2013 Navajo Nation Food & Wellness Summit.” Hosted by the Navajo Division of Health, Navajo Nation Museum (DCAA attended and participated in Summit)
• June 17, 2013 – DCAA Meeting (9:00 a.m.)
• June 19, 2013 – NTC – Health & Education Committee
• June 24, 2013 – NTC – Law & Order Committee

July 2013

• July 2, 2013 – Resource & Development Committee (1:00 p.m.)
• July 3, 20123 – Business & Finance (10:00 a.m.)
• July 11, 2013 - Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee
• July 17, 2013 - NTC Summer Session- Legislation did not pass (8 yes, 10 no)
• July 24, 2013 – DCAA/Facebook Training @ Gallup UNM – Denisa Livingston

August 2013

• August 9, 2013 – DCAA Meeting @ Parks & Recreation – “Where Do We Go From Here?”
  ○ Move forward with legislation “
    ▪ 2% taxation
    ▪ Elimination on fresh fruits & Vegetables
    ▪ Add elimination of taxes on water
    ▪ Direct funds to chapters for community healthy projects
  ○ As, a result, we spit the legislation into two separate legislations
• August 12, 2013 – DCAA Meeting @ Parks & Recreation
  ○ 10 weeks to prepare for legislation for Fall Session (October 21-25, 2013)
  ○ Need to meet with Navajo Nation Taxation Office; Marian Kahn, Legislative Lawyer; Other(s)
  ○ To accomplish this DCAA will meet every Friday....our goal is to move the meetings around to various parts of the Nation
• August 16, 2013 – DCAA Meeting – “Strategic Planning”
  ○ Identified Goals, time lines, teams
• August 23, 2013 – DCAA Celebration @ Navajo Nation Tribal Council Chambers
• August 30, 2013 – DCAA Meeting @ Chinle 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
  ○ Team reviewed and revised/updated DCAA Action Plan

**September 2013**

• September 12, 2013 – DCAA Meeting
• September 19, 2013 – DCAA Meeting @ Gallup UNM
• September 20, 2013 – DCAA Meeting @ Kayenta, AZ
• September 25, 2013 – DCAA Meeting with VP Rex Lee Jim and DOH Director Larry Curley (VP did not show)

**October 2013**

• October 4, 2013 – Law & Order @ Shiprock
• October 5, 2013 – Navajo Nation Northern Fair @ Shiprock (no float)
• October 8, 2013 – Resource Development Committee @ Chambers
• October 10, 2013 – Conference Call @ 900 a.m.
• October 15, 2013 – Health, Education, Human Services @ Chambers/North Conference Room
• October 16, 2013 – DCAA Conference Call @ 2:00 p.m.
• October 17, 2013 – Naa'bi'k'iyati' Committee @ 10:00 a.m.
• October 18, 2013 – DCAA Conference Call @ 2:00 p.m.
• October 21, 2013 – DCAA Meeting @ IHS Area Office (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
• October 23, 2013 – DCAA Meeting @ Water Management (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
• October 28, 2013 – DCAA Meeting @ HIS Warehouse (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
Navajo Division of Health Review Comments

ISSUE:

Proposed NN Legislation 0085-13, "Navajo Nation Junk Food Sales Tax Act of 2013 & Approving the Elimination of the Sales Tax on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables"

BACKGROUND:

The Navajo Division of Health (NDOH) implemented its concerns on the growth of diabetes and obesity among the Navajo people by providing a forum for all interested individuals to express their concerns and ideas in May 2012. Based on the information and comments gathered, the Division of Health implemented a second Navajo Nation Food & Wellness Policy Summit on June 11 & 12, 2013. Six breakout sessions were held during the two day meeting with over 150 experts attending the two day sessions. NDOH is currently in the process of compiling the information, data, and ideas expressed during this Summit. NDOH anticipates the development of a comprehensive legislative package to be submitted before the end of the year.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Obesity Prevention and Control Branch will be conducting a Navajo Nation wide nutrition assessment on food stores and consumer access in collaboration with the Navajo Nation, Tuba City Regional Health Care Cooperation, Arizona State Department of Health, New Mexico Department of Health. The assessment lead by the Navajo Division of Health will begin on July 10 to July 22, 2013. Of particular importance, the Navajo Division of Health is developing a comprehensive wellness plan which will include Food & Wellness Policy legislation. The information provided from this nutrition environment assessment will prove valuable to informing this plan and its implementation.

In specific reference to the proposed legislation, NDOH met with the legislative sponsor and relevant advocacy groups regarding Legislation 0085-13 at least three times since its initial introduction. During these meetings, NDOH expressed its support for the intent of the legislation and recommended that a comprehensive legislative packet would be preferable rather than submitting single pieces of legislation at a time. That, at this time, is still the perspective the NDOH holds. Since this is not only a health-related legislation, it also has implications for other departments within the Nation: Tax Commission, TANF program, SNAP Program, etc. NDOH plans to include these entities during the Legislative & Policy formulation phase over the next 3-4 months.

CONCLUSION:

NDOH considers Legislation 0085-13 a potential element of the overall comprehensive Legislative packet that will be submitted later in the year. The advantage of a comprehensive package is that is will show the connections and linkages between different parts of the legislation.

6/18/13
MEMORANDUM

TO : Deborah Cayadito

FROM : Edison J. Wauneka, Executive Director

SUBJECT : Agent to Legislation No. 0289-13

DATE : October 17, 2013

Base on our discussion regarding Legislation 0289-13, I am submitting this response to questions cited to Election Administration at the October 15, 2013 Health, Education and Human Services Committee meeting.

Funds for a Referendum election is available which was allocated in fiscal year 2013 as a supplemental appropriation by the Navajo Nation Council, a carryover of the funds to FY 2014 was approved by the N.N.C. and signed by the President.

Attached is section 403 of the Election code specifying the process of referring a referendum measure for public vote, including the timeline for the measure to be included in a regular scheduled Navajo Nation election or in a Special Election. Please be aware that if a measure is put to a vote in a special referendum election the voter participation is usually very minimal.

I hope this will help with Legislation 0289-13, if you need additional information please call me at 928.871.7263.
Note (2005). At Subsection (C)(3), for purposes of statutory consistency, reference to "Subsections (A) and (B)" was changed to "Subsections (1) and (2)." Also, reference to "§ 403" within the same Subsection was changed to "§ 404."

CAP–23–90, April 6, 1990.

Cross References

Chapter referendum, see 26 N.N.C. §§ 103, 1003 and 2001 of the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act.

§ 403. Referendum measures referred by the Navajo Nation Council and Chapters

A. The Navajo Nation Council shall, by resolution, refer a referendum measure for public vote. The resolution shall place timelines for the election which shall be held at the next regularly scheduled Navajo Nation election (primary, general or Navajo Nation-wide chapter election) if such election is scheduled no sooner than 60 days following the adoption of the resolution OR at a special election to be held no sooner than 60 days and not later than 90 days from the date of the passage of the resolution referring the enactment. The resolution shall provide the language to be placed on the ballot in accordance with 11 N.N.C. § 407(A). Where the language is not clear, the Board of Election Supervisors shall, by resolution, amend the language for clarification purposes only, with language provided or recommended by the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Office of the Attorney General. The Board shall also review the measure to ensure that the measure is not exempt pursuant to § 401. The Council shall direct that funding be identified and made available to conduct the election.

B. A chapter may by resolution refer a measure for vote of registered voters within the chapter(s) which fall within the scope of the measure. The resolution shall place timelines on the election of the measure which shall be at the next regularly scheduled chapter election if such election is scheduled no sooner than 60 days following adoption of the resolution OR at a special chapter election to be held no sooner than 60 days and no later than 90 days from the date of the passage of the resolution referring the enactment. The resolution shall provide the language to be placed on the ballot in accordance with 11 N.N.C. § 407(A). Where the language is not clear, the Board of Election Supervisors shall, by resolution, amend the language for clarification purposes only, with language provided or recommended by the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Office of the Attorney General. The Board shall also review the measure to ensure that it is not exempt pursuant to § 401. The chapter shall make funding available to conduct the election.

C. Where a resolution refers to a future referendum election based upon a specific event, the Navajo Nation Council shall upon a foreseen or planned event refer the measure by resolution.

History


CAP–23–90, April 6, 1990.

Cross References

Chapter referendum, see 26 N.N.C. §§ 103, 1003 and 2001 of the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act.

§ 404. Initiatives by petition of registered voters
MEMORANDUM

TO:    Jonathan Hale, Chairman
        Health, Education and Human Services Committee
        Navajo Nation Council
        Dine Community Advocacy Alliance

FROM:  Martin E. Ashley, Executive Director
        Office of the Navajo Tax Commission

DATE:  October 17, 2013

SUBJECT: Legislation 0289-13 and 0289-13

The Office of the Navajo Tax Commission (ONTC) was advised of questions raised at the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHC) meeting on October 15, 2013 regarding the subject legislation.

ONTC would like to inform HEHC and any other committee and the Navajo Nation Council that this office has worked with the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) regarding their initiative to tax Unhealthy Food and to delete taxation on Health Foods (fresh fruits, vegetables, water). ONTC has met with DCAA several times over the past year (September 2012 to present) to discuss and advise on their proposal. In these discussions ONTC has advised that it’s not taking a position in support or against the initiative and just providing technical assistance related to a tax matter.

Should there be any questions, please call me at tribal extension 6992.

Cc:    Chad Yazzie, Sr. Tax Attorney, ONTC
Legislation 0290-13: Water definitions

Artesian: Water from a well tapping a confined aquifer in which the water level stands at some height above the top of the aquifer. (FDA)

Fluoridated: Water containing greater than 0.6 and up to 1.0 mg/L total of fluoride. (FDA)

Mineral: Water containing not less than 250 ppm total dissolved solids that originate from a geologically and physically protected underground water source. Mineral water is characterized by constant levels and relative proportions of minerals and trace elements at the source. No minerals may be added to mineral water." (FDA)

Purified: Water that is produced by distillation, deionization, reverse osmosis or other suitable processes and that meets the definition of "purified water" in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia, 23d Revision, Jan. 1, 1995. As appropriate, also may be called "demineralized water," "deionized water," "distilled water," and "reverse osmosis water." (FDA)

Sparkling: Water that, after treatment and possible replacement of carbon dioxide, contains the same amount of carbon dioxide that it had at emergence from the source. (FDA)

Spring: Water derived from an underground formation from which water flows naturally to the surface of the earth at an identified location. Spring water may be collected at the spring or through a bore hole tapping the underground formation feeding the spring, but there are additional requirements for use of a bore hole. (FDA)

Sterile: Water that is sterilized and contains no antimicrobial agents. (CDC)

Distillation: Water is turned into a vapor, leaving minerals behind. Vapors are then condensed into water again. (CDC)
October 9, 2013

The Honorable Johnny Naize, Speaker
The 22nd Navajo Nation Council
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support/endorsement for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grassroots community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council, to (1) amend the current Navajo Nation sales tax to eliminate sales tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, seeds, nuts, and water to encourage the purchase and consumption of nutritious foods and drink; and (2) enact a new legislation and policy called “The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013” that would impose a new type of sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Indian Reservation. Due to the high consumption of non-nutritious items in convenience stores, grocery stores and trading posts, the consumers of the Navajo Nation will utilize revenues generated in the form of sales tax for local wellness activities.

The places where we work, live and play – environments – are the greatest contributor to health and wellness status; greater than genetics or personal choices (which are dependent upon our environments). The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has created an environment on the Navajo Nation leading to a decreased health and well being among the Navajo People. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers to make choices as necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NDCD) that provides funding to the one hundred ten (110) Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities as listed in the “The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013.”

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees which act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call us at 505-980-5355.

Respectfully,

Erin Marshall
Managing Director

Liz Chavez
Co-Chair Board of Directors, 2013-14
March 12, 2013

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support/endorsement for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council, to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Reservation. Due to the high consumption of these items in convenience stores, grocery stores and trading posts, the revenues generated in the form of sales tax will be utilized for the consumers on the Navajo Nation.

The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has provided an environment on the Navajo Nation has led to a decreased health and well being among the Navajo People. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers make the appropriate choices as necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NCD) that provides funding to the one hundred ten (110) Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be made available to be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities including the following: 1) Playgrounds, 2) Wellness Trails, 3) Fitness Centers, 4) Gardening, 5) Bike Trails/Hiking Trails.

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees that act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership.

Sincerely,

Sisters in Circle
Pyn Francisco-Hosteen, Sisters In Circle Member
Community Member

TO MEET IN "CIRCLE" AS SISTERS/WOMEN TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND CELEBRATE OUR UNIQUE GIFTS, TALENTS, AND EXPERIENCES
March 12, 2013

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council, to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Reservation. Due to the high consumption of these items in convenience stores, grocery stores and trading posts, the revenues generated in the form of sales tax will be utilized for the consumers on the Navajo Nation.

The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has provided an environment on the Navajo Nation has led to a decreased health and well being among the Navajo People. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers make the appropriate choices as necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NDCD) that provides funding to the one hundred ten (110) Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be made available to be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities including the following: 1) Playgrounds, 2) Wellness Trails, 3) Fitness Centers, 4) Gardening, 5) Bike Trails/Hiking Trails.

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees that act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Healing Circle Drop In Center
Shirley Montoya, Coordinator
March 11, 2013

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food sold across the Navajo Reservation.

The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has provided an environment on the Navajo Nation that has led to decreased health and well being among the Navajo People, and an increase in overweight and obesity. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers to make the appropriate choices as necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NDCD) that provides funding to the 110 Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be made available to be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities like the following: 1) Walking, Running, Biking Trails, 2) Playgrounds, 3) Sports Courts & Fields (e.g. Basketball, Softball, etc.), 4) Physical Activity Classes & Fitness Facilities, 5) Gardening.

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees that act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership.

Respectfully,

Keno Zahney
Community Member
RCFW Member

We are committed to strengthening families and nurturing positive changes in our communities.
Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support/endorsement for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council, to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Indian Reservation. If a person drinks one 12-ounce can of a sugared drink each day in excess of their body’s balance of calories in and calories out, the person will gain fifteen pounds in a year. And most people drink more than 12-ounces when they are drinking a sugared drink. Since extra body weight is associated with diabetes and heart disease, any reduction in the drinking of this source of calories by Navajo people will improve public health. I believe a tax to make sugar drinks more expensive than no calorie drinks would encourage people to consume less sugar drinks and improve Navajo public health.

I work with the eighty Navajo participants who have given their time over the last sixteen years to participate in the Diabetes Prevention Program and Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study. Within this research study, we found that at entry into the study, American Indian participants were eating about 37.5% of their calories from fat each day (the federal recommendation is to eat less than 30% of calories from fat). Junk foods are usually high in fat and some of the calories from fat that our study participants were eating came from junk food. By learning what foods are high in fat, our study participants were able to modify their fat eating and one year after entering the study, women were eating less than 34% of their calories from fat and men were eating less than 30% of their calories from fat. Modifications to lower the fat study participants were eating resulted in weight loss and the Diabetes Prevention Program found that a lifestyle balance program of weight loss and increased activity decreased a person’s risk of diabetes by 58%. It would be a great use of the funds generated by a sales tax on junk food to support lifestyle balance programs across the Navajo Nation, to support individuals to lose weight and decrease their risk of diabetes.

I have attached a ‘ReThink Your Drink’ handout that gives you more information on how much sugar is in popular drinks. I urge you to support the proposed sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call our office/me at

Respectfully,

Carol Percy, RN, MS

Diabetes Prevention Program Coordinator

505-368-6345
carol.percy@ihs.gov
March 18, 2013

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

It is the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health’s pleasure to write a letter of support for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance. The Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health’s mission is to work in partnership with the American Indian and Alaska Native communities to raise health status, self-sufficiency and health leadership to the highest possible level. We currently support efforts to increase the availability of healthy foods, educate young and old about healthy traditional foods and decrease the burden of Type 2 Diabetes around the Navajo Nation. We are glad to support the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance in their similar efforts.

It is believed that high consumption of sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has greatly contributed to the spread of obesity and diabetes across the United States including the Navajo Nation, and therefore, we support all efforts to decrease the amount of these items sold and consumed on the Navajo Nation. We also support efforts that promote healthy lifestyles and encourage physical activity.

Decreasing that amount of unhealthy foods consumed and increasing the amount of daily physical activity will take individual, community, and system wide change and we work to support individual, organizational, and policy efforts to enact these changes. The funding from the taxation can improve the farming infrastructure across Navajo Nation to improve the availability and affordability of fruits and vegetables among tribal communities to change the choices of food purchased. In addition, health programs and wellness programs can be established on the needs of large and small communities of the Navajo Nation such as wellness centers, physical activities at chapters houses for community members, and building the infrastructure of safe playgrounds and park for families to be more active that are maintained. We believe these are all possible and viable changes that could impact the health and well-being of people across the Navajo Nation and it is imperative that efforts to implement these changes are supported for the future children of Navajo Nation.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call our office/me at (505) 368-4038/4030.

Respectfully,

Gaelene Tsosie, MPH
Center for American Indian Health
Bloomberg School College of Public Health
Johns Hopkins University
Your Constituents Advocating For Positive Change

- Have a “Voice” For Change
- Advocate for families and communities to create positive change.
- Educate ourselves, families, communities about health trends, issues, and resolutions.
- Raise awareness of food choices of our people.
- Empower everyone to create healthy environments to live long lives.
- Champion a cause
- Address and develop policy/legislative changes for healthier communities
- Encourage leadership development

Taking Action Together
Fundamental Law of Diné (FLD)

General Provision:
- Leadership is to develop and administer policies and plans reflecting the FLD as guiding principles.

Traditional Law:
- Legislative Branch leaders shall enact policies and laws to address immediate and future needs.

Customary Law:
- "That every child and elder be respected, honored, and protected with healthy physical and mental environment, free from all abuse."

Natural Law:
- "Dine' have sacred obligation and duty to respect, preserve and protect all. We were designated as stewards for these relatives..."
What are COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROJECTS?

- Wellness **DOES NOT** arise from hospitals, counseling centers, and clinical programs

What are COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROJECTS?

- Communities address their **NEEDS and GOALS**

What are COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROJECTS?

- Effectiveness is when local communities take **OWNERSHIP and RESPONSIBILITY** based on their priorities and visions
What are COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROJECTS?

Projects are community

0290-13: Water definitions

- Artesian
- Fluoridated
- Mineral
- Purified
- Sparkling
- Spring
- Sterile
- Distilled

Community Development:
Revenue & Capacity Building vs. Grant
Our Journey Towards

“A Healthy Diné Nation”

Support from Chapters and Organizations including

Presentations and News Releases for Navajo Tax Legislation

2012 - 2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Type of Meeting</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Votes: Passed Tabled Failed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.1.12</td>
<td>Eastern Navajo Agency Council</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 62 in favor, 8 opposed, 10 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.13</td>
<td>Ojo Encino Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 17 in favor, 1 opposed, 13 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10.13</td>
<td>Churchrock Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10.13</td>
<td>Pueblo Pintado Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.23.12</td>
<td>Becenti Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 34 in favor, 0 opposed, 10 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.12.13</td>
<td>Whitehorse Lake Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15.13</td>
<td>Littlewater Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 14 in favor, 10 opposed, 3 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.17.13</td>
<td>Lake Valley Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 25 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.19.13</td>
<td>Crownpoint Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Navajo</td>
<td>Pass: 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 6 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.19.13</td>
<td>Tse’ii’ahi Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 9 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5.13</td>
<td>Ramah Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 14 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.18.13</td>
<td>Smith Lake Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>No quorum/Educational Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.18.13</td>
<td>Nahodishgish Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>No quorum/Educational Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.17.13</td>
<td>Thoreau Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 25 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.23.13</td>
<td>Smith Lake Chapter</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>No quorum/Educational Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.13</td>
<td>Steamboat Commission Government</td>
<td>Ft. Defiance Agency</td>
<td>Pass, 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10.13</td>
<td>Ft. Defiance Chapter</td>
<td>Ft. Defiance Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14.13</td>
<td>St. Michaels Chapter</td>
<td>Ft. Defiance Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Result</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10.13</td>
<td>Bahast'l'ah Chapter</td>
<td>Ft. Defiance Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 25 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.16.12</td>
<td>Whitecone Chapter</td>
<td>Ft. Defiance Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 23 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.17.13</td>
<td>Jeddito Chapter</td>
<td>Ft. Defiance Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 26 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15.13</td>
<td>Tse Si ani (Lupton) Chapter</td>
<td>Ft. Defiance Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 10 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.21.14</td>
<td>Oak Springs Chapter</td>
<td>Fort Defiance Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 28 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.14.12</td>
<td>Kaibeto Chapter</td>
<td>Western Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.13</td>
<td>District #3</td>
<td>Western Agency</td>
<td>Canceled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10.13</td>
<td>Ts'ah Bii Kin Chapter</td>
<td>Western Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 26 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.11.13</td>
<td>LeChee Chapter</td>
<td>Western Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 27 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.13</td>
<td>Bodaway Chapter</td>
<td>Western Agency</td>
<td>Canceled presentation due to snowstorm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9.13</td>
<td>Coppermine Chapter</td>
<td>Western Navajo</td>
<td>Pass: need to see doc for vote count.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.16.13</td>
<td>Western Agency Council</td>
<td>Western Navajo</td>
<td>Tabled due to more information needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.17.13</td>
<td>Leupp Chapter</td>
<td>Western Agency</td>
<td>Tabled pending further information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.20.13</td>
<td>Kayenta Chapter</td>
<td>Western Agency</td>
<td>Tabled due to more information. 32 in favor, 5 opposed, 0 abstained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.13</td>
<td>To'nanee's dizi Local Governance</td>
<td>Western Agency</td>
<td>Tabled due to more information needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.17.13</td>
<td>Lukachukai Chapter</td>
<td>Chinle Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 8 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8.13</td>
<td>Many Farms Chapter</td>
<td>Chinle Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 15 in favor, 5 opposed, 5 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6.13</td>
<td>Chinle Agency Council</td>
<td>Chinle Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 37 in favor, 7 opposed, 13 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.12.13</td>
<td>Low Mountain Chapter</td>
<td>Chinle Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.28.14</td>
<td>Chinle Chapter</td>
<td>Chinle Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 21 in favor, 4 opposed, 6 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.14.13</td>
<td>Pinon Chapter</td>
<td>Chinle Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 23 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.17.13</td>
<td>Rock Point Chapter</td>
<td>Chinle Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 31 in favor, 1 opposed, 6 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Chapter/Entity</td>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Result</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.17.13</td>
<td>Shiprock Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 63 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7.13</td>
<td>Burnham Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>No quorum/Educational Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14.13</td>
<td>Red Valley Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 18 in favor, 4 opposed, 4 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8.13</td>
<td>Cudei Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Tabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14.13</td>
<td>Nenahnezad Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 28 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.11.13</td>
<td>Tee Nos Pos Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7.13</td>
<td>Mexican Water Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 20 in favor, 11 opposed, 1 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7.13</td>
<td>Tolikan Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Referendum: 32 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14.13</td>
<td>Red Mesa Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 19 in favor; 1 opposed; 5 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15.13</td>
<td>Tse Daa K’aan</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 23 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.17.13</td>
<td>Beclabito Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 14 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.13.13</td>
<td>Toadlena/Two Grey Hills Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.19.13</td>
<td>San Juan Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.15.13</td>
<td>Upper Fruitland Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Tabled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.09.13</td>
<td>Newcomb Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 26 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.13.13</td>
<td>Cove Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 27 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.13.13</td>
<td>Sheep Springs Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 4 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.21.13</td>
<td>Northern Agency Council</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 46 in favor, 3 opposed, 3 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.15.13</td>
<td>Aneth Chapter</td>
<td>Shiprock Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 38 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**SUPPORTING RESOLUTION ENTITIES/ORGANIZATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.3.12</td>
<td>Eastern Navajo Health Board</td>
<td>Eastern Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8.13</td>
<td>Kayenta Farm Board</td>
<td>Western Agency</td>
<td>Pass: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Entity or Organization</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.12.13</td>
<td>Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission</td>
<td>Pass: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.07.13</td>
<td>Dine' Bi Olt'a School Board Association</td>
<td>Pass: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained (not signed and not finalized)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.26.12</td>
<td>Red Willow Tohatchi Farm Board Ft. Defiance Agency</td>
<td>No quorum/Educational Presentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUPPORT LETTERS ENTITIES/ORGANIZATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Entity or Organization</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.11.13</td>
<td>Restoring &amp; Celebrating Family Wellness</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.12.13</td>
<td>Healing Circle Drop In Center</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.12.13</td>
<td>Becenti Chapter - Land Use Planning Committee</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.12.13</td>
<td>Sisters In Circle</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.13.13</td>
<td>Diabetes Prevention Program</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.18.13</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.26.13</td>
<td>Northern Navajo Medical Center</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15.13</td>
<td>McKinley Community Health Alliance</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.01.13</td>
<td>N.M. Healthy Food Council</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.9.13</td>
<td>New Mexico Healthier Weight Council</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.6.13</td>
<td>First Nations Development Institute</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Baca Community School</td>
<td>Letters of Support from Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received 11/14</td>
<td>Navajo Prep Naat’aanii Youth Council</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9.14</td>
<td>Senator John Pinto, New Mexico State Senate</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9.14</td>
<td>Alvina Begay, Registered Dietitian, Professional Runner, and Nike Ambassador</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9.14</td>
<td>Notah Begay III, NB3 Foundation</td>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.24.13</td>
<td>E.N.A., Local Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5.13</td>
<td>To’nanees’dizi Local Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.04.13</td>
<td>LEAD Conference, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.14.13</td>
<td>Inscription House Health Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30.14</td>
<td>COPE Community Health Symposium, Window Rock, Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/19 - 22/14</td>
<td>Harvesting Change 2014: Food and Community Gathering in Detroit, Michigan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESOLUTION OF THE EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

1. Eastern Navajo Agency Council, (ENAC) is a political sub-unit of the Navajo Nation and is comprised of representatives from 31 Navajo Chapters from within Eastern Navajo Agency, Navajo Nation and is authorized to act as the representative voice of the 31 Navajo Chapters; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duty called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and;

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by
children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that this foregoing resolution was duly discussed at a duly called agency council meeting, with quorum present; the same was passed by a vote 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained, this 1st day of December 1, 2012 at Crownpoint Mid-School, Crownpoint, New Mexico.

Motion by: David Lee
Second by: M. Garrett Pinto

Johnny Johnson, President
EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

Fernie Yazzie, Secretary/Treasurer
EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION OF THE OJO ENCINO CHAPTER

RESOLUTION OJOE.03-08-13/001

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DDCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNKFOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 3 (A) the Ojo Encino Chapter is a duly recognized Certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation Government as listed at 11 N.N.C. Part 1, Section 10; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 1(B) Ojo Encino Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate correction when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions; and
3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 community advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and
4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and
5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The sweet success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes: 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy body mass index (BMIS’S) in the overweight or obese range; and
6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and
7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and
8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

George Werito, Chapter President
Jeanette Vice, Chapter Vice President
Brandon Sam, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Gloria Chiquito, Chapter Manager
Leonard Tsosie, Council Delegate
Elizabeth Stoney, Land Board Member
9. Sugar-Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to included chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc.. will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The Revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the purpose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Ojo Encino Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar-Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the forgoing resolution was duly considered by the Ojo Encino Chapter at a duly called meeting at Ojo Encino Chapter, New Mexico, Navajo Nation. At which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of _____ 17 _____ in favor, _____ 01 _____ opposed, and _____ 13 _____ abstained this _____ 08th _____ day of _________ March _________ 2013.

Motioned: Tom Jim Sala

Second: Tony Castillo

George Werito, Chapter President

Jeanette Vice, Chapter Vice-President

Brandon Sam, Secretary/Treasurer
RESOLUTION OF THE CHURCH ROCK CHAPTER
RESOLUTION NO. CRC-130310-A

RESPECTFULLY SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS

1. Pursuant to Sections 1.B and 2.22 of the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act, the Church Rock Chapter is established to make decisions about local government matters, to conduct local government operations and to provide for the general health, safety and welfare of its membership; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navao Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 22,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The survey data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 88% of these women have pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI's) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000, and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight, obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Churchrock Chapter respectfully supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Churchrock Chapter at a duly called meeting at Churchrock (Navajo Nation), New Mexico at which a quorum was present and it was approved by a vote of 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstaining on the 10th of March 2013

Motion by: Nellie Lee

Seconded by: Elizabeth Whitman

Johnnie Henry Jr., President

Skerman Woody, Vice-President

Louise Jim, Secretary/Treasurer

Alvin Billie, Community Services Coordinator

Honorable Edmund Yazzie, Council Delegate
Member of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council
RESOLUTION OF PUEBLO PINATADO CHAPTER EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY DISTRICT # 15

Supporting the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) Sugar-Sweetened Beverages/Junk Food Initiative By imposing a Two percent (2%) Sales Tax Increase on the Navajo Nation

WHEREAS:
1. The Pueblo Pinatayo Navajo chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 10-8-1, the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act.

3. The Dine Community Advocate Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 community advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnant women were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2015 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colitis and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

Ben Shelly, President

Rex Lee Jim, Vice-President

PPC-03-2013-019
9. Sugar-sweet beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar-sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounces soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people and;

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the proposed tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Pueblo Finoado Chapter Membership hereby supports the DEMA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was duly considered by the Pueblo Finoado Chapter at a duly called meeting at Pueblo Finoado, New Mexico (Navajo Nation) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by:

Kathryn Johnson, Seconded by: Annie Etsitty, was passed by a vote of 30 in favor, 00 opposed and 00 abstain, the 10th day of March 2013.

Rina Murphy, Chapter President

Erline Henderson, Vice-President

Rhea Murphy-Willis, Secretary/Treasurer
RESOLUTION OF THE BECENTI NAVAJO CHAPTER
RESOLUTION NO: BNC-111813-6

TITLE: SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to Navajo Tribal Council Resolution CJ-20-55 Becenti Navajo Chapter is a duly certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation and is vested with the authority to address and resolve local matters and issues in the best interest of the Chapter and Community members and coordinate with or refer appropriate subject matters to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and Municipal governments; and

2. By Resolution CAP-34-98 the Navajo Nation Council enacted the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act and is codified at Title Twenty Six (26) of the Navajo Nation Code; and

3. The Local Governance Act recognizes governance at the local level which consequently delegates to Chapters certain governmental authority to deal with local matters consistent with Navajo law, custom and tradition and the Act clearly defines the executive and legislative functions of the Chapter including the duties and responsibilities of Chapter officials and Chapter administrators which are uniform with the Navajo Nation's policy of separation of powers and checks and balances; and

4. The Local Governance Act promotes local autonomy with a desired outcome of improved community decision making, excelling and flourishing communities, enabling local Navajo leaders to guide the community towards a prosperous future and improving the supremacy and sovereignty of the Navajo Nation and concurrently governing with responsibility and accountability to the local citizens; and

5. The Becenti Navajo Chapter has not received governance certification yet, but is of the opinion that the powers and authority granted to the Chapter when it was initially established and certified as a political subdivision of the Navajo Nation was never diminished; and

6. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

7. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

8. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Services there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of
Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

9. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

10. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

11. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

12. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

13. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

14. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

15. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running, and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

16. There is overwhelming public support for the proposed tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Becenti Navajo Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverages/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was considered by the people of the Becenti Navajo Chapter at a duly called meeting at Becenti, (Navajo Nation) New Mexico at which a quorum was present and was passed with a motion by Mary Frances Joe, seconded by Dan Vicenti with a vote of 34 in favor, 0 opposed and 10 abstention this 23rd day of December 2012.

Charles Long, Secretary/Treasurer.
RESOLUTION OF THE WHITEHORSE LAKE CHAPTER

Resolution No. WHLR-01-37-13

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Whitehorse Lake Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drink, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Whitehorse Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Whitehorse Lake Chapter at a duly called meeting at Whitehorse Lake Chapter, Navajo Nation, (New Mexico) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 12\textsuperscript{th} day of March, 2013.

\begin{align*}
\text{Motion:} & \quad \text{Jonathan Nolan} \\
\text{Second:} & \quad \text{Thomas Chiquito} \\
\text{Chee Smith, Jr. President} & \quad \text{Fernando Yabany, Vice-President} \\
\text{Janie B. Jim, Secretary/Treasurer} & \quad \text{Leonard Tsosie, Council Delegate}
\end{align*}
RESOLUTION OF THE LITTLEWATER CHAPTER OF EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY

LITT-03-13-2461

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGE/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 3 (A) the Littlewater Chapter is a duly recognized certified Chapter under the Navajo Nation Government, as listed at 11 N.N.C., part 1, section 10, and

2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 1 (B) Littlewater Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate correction when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions, and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and
10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drink, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Littlewater Chapter of Eastern Navajo Agency is supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was duly considered by and moved for adoption by Shelly Biakaalddy, seconded by Christina Platero, thoroughly discussed and adopted by a vote of 14 in favor 10 opposed and 03 abstained at a duly called meeting at Littlewater Chapter, Navajo Nation (New Mexico) on this 15th day of March 2013.

George Jim, Chapter President

Paul D. Pablo, Chapter Vice-President

June Barbone, Secretary/Treasurer
RESOLUTION OF THE LAKE VALLEY CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Lake Valley Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success date reports the following in 2011; 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increase their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda, pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and
12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Lake Valley Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Lake Valley Chapter at a duly called meeting at Lake Valley Chapter, Navajo Nation, (New Mexico) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 25 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstained this 17th day of March 2013. Motion by Brian Begay, and Second by Susie Tse. [Signature]

Tony Padilla Jr., Chapter President

Edison P. Tso, Chapter Vice President

Betty S. Dedmon, Secretary/Treasurer

Danny Simpson, Council Delegte

[Signature] Not in attendance
RESOLUTION CPC-13-03-02

SUBJECT: SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. The Crownpoint Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and
10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Crownpoint Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Crownpoint Chapter at a duly called meeting at Crownpoint Chapter, Navajo Nation, (New Mexico) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 22 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 19th day of March, 2013.

Motion: Billy Martin Second: Jimmy Toledo

Rita Capitan, President

Cecilia J. Nez, Vice-President

Jerrilee King, Secretary/Treasurer

Danny Simpson, Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF THE TSE’II’AHII’ CHAPTER
Resolution No.: TSE1L0313.3000

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A ONE PERCENT (1%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Tse’ii’ahi’ Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2000 the obesity rate was 24.5% and the overweight rate was 48% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea; sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of ONE percent (1%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

Johnny Johnson, Chapter President
Valerie Ralls, Chapter Vice-President
Bianca Tso-Conn, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer
Danny Simpson, Council Delegate

Reginald Smith, Community Services Coordinator
Sylvia J. Begay, Account Maintenance Specialist
Clinton Jim, Land Board Member
12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Tse’ii’ahí Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 1% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

I, HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Tse’ii’ahí Chapter at a duly called meeting at Tse’ii’ahí Chapter, Navajo Nation, (New Mexico) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 35 in favor, 00 opposed, and 09 abstained this 19th day of March, 2013.

Motion by: Billy Yazzie, Jr. Second: Alta Billy

Johnny Johnson, Chapter President
TSE’II’AH’I’ CHAPTER
RESOLUTION OF THE RAMAH CHAPTER
Resolution No. 041361

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Ramah Chapter is a certified local government unit of the Navajo Nation and each Chapter is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

13. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

14. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

15. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Ramah Chapter supports the DCAA Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables initiative on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Ramah Chapter, at a duly called meeting at the Ramah Chapter, Navajo Nation, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 16 in favor, 0 opposed, and 14 abstained this 5th day of April, 2013.

Harry B. Yazzie, Sr., President

Cecil F. Erlrich, Vice President

Nancy M. Martinez-Alonzo, Secretary/Treasurer

Leo L. Pino, ENA Land Board Member

Motioned by: David Jose

Seconded by: Kee Lee
SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Thoreau Chapter is a certified local government unit of the Navajo Nation and each Chapter is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

13. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

14. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

15. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
The Thoreau Chapter supports the DCAA Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables initiative on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION
WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Thoreau Chapter, at a duly called meeting at the Thoreau Chapter, Navajo Nation, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 17th day of April, 2013.

Motion: Ralph Delgarito

Second: Harrison Nez

Chapter President

Chapter Vice President

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF
STEAMBOAT COMMISSION GOVERNMENT
STEAMBOAT CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to TCDC Resolution TCDYMT-60-03; Steamboat Chapter is a local Governance Act ("LGA") certified Chapter authorized to exercise certain governance authorities contained within 26 N.N.C. § 103, with the exception of land administration authority pursuant to 26 N.N.C. §103 (D) (I); and

2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-51-04, Steamboat Chapter is a Governance Certified Chapter authorized to exercise certain authorities within 26 N.N.C. and

3. The Steamboat Chapter is delegated to act within its authority to review all local matters affecting the Community members consistent with Navajo Nation law, including custom and tradition which compel the chapter to govern with responsibility and accountability to the community members; and

4. The Steamboat community voted and approved on August 23, 2011 an Alternative Form of Government to change to Commission-Manager Style Government, and

5. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

6. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

7. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI's) in the overweight or obese range; and

8. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

9. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the
Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

10. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

11. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

12. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

13. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

14. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes, and

15. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE STEAMBAT COMMISSION HEREBY SUPPORTS THE DINE' COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Steamboat Commission Government at a duly called meeting in Steamboat, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present, motioned by Deborah Cayadito and seconded by Wallace Tsosie, and that the same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed, 0 abstained, this 1st day of March 2013.

Matthew Noble
Commission President
RESOLUTION OF THE Fort Defiance Chapter
Resolution No. __________

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGE/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:
1. The Fort Defiance Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 402% (a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the member of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 212 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Services there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age group; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problem, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc. will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the proposed tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Fort Defiance Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Fort Defiance Chapter at a duly called meeting at Fort Defiance Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 33 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstained this day 10th day of March, 2013.

Motion:
Mariorie Bitsue

Second:
Jimmie Bitsue

Zonira Bitsue, Chapter President
RESOLUTION OF THE  
ST. MICHAELS CHAPTER  
No. 04-14-13-131

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to Resolution of the Navajo Nation Council, Title 26, Section 3(A); the St. Michaels Chapter is a duly certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation Government, and

2. Pursuant to Resolution of the Navajo Nation Council, Title 26; Section 1(B), the St. Michaels Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate correction when necessary and make recommendation to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions, and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service, there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of pregnancies were compiled by diabetes; 89% of these women and pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sweetened beverage and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc., and junk food to include chips, candy cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, an health education classes; and

13. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The St. Michaels Chapter hereby supports DCAA Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables initiative on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered at a duly regular called meeting at St. Michaels Chapter, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstained, this 14th day of April 2013.

Motion by: Marybeth Sage

Second by: Anthony Cleveland

Curran Hannon, President
St. Michaels Chapter
RESOLUTION OF THE BAHAST'AH CHARTER
Resolution No. BAHA 3-10-13-VIII

SUPPORTING THE DINE' COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Bahast'ah Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine' Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnant women were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 35% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will
reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the proposed tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Bahast'ah Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Bahast'ah Chapter at a duly called meeting at Bahast'ah Chapter, Navajo Nation, New Mexico at which a quorum was present and the same was passed with a vote of 25 in favor, 00 opposed, and 02 abstained this 16th day of March 2013.

MOTION: Bob Sandoval
SECOND: Salie-Arin Begay

Chaparral President
RESOLUTION OF THE WHITE CONE CHAPTER
Resolution No: WC-12-10-070

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The White Cone Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation, and is authorized, by 2-N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval, and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act, and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service, there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data report the following: In 2011, 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes, 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. Indian Health Service estimates that it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes and the cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the six service units and two service areas of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range form 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development of type 2 diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar-sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day
consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The White Cone Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly presented and considered by the White Cone Chapter at a duly called meeting at White Cone Chapter at White Cone, Navajo County, New Mexico or Arizona, Navajo Nation, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed and 4 abstained this 16th day of October, 2012.

Motion: Elmer Dick

Chapter President

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Second: Melvin Williams

Chapter Vice-President

Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF THE JEDDITO CHAPTER
Resolution No. JEDP-03-17-13-004

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Jeddito Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI's) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases
their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13: There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Jeddito Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Jeddito Chapter at a duly called meeting at Jeddito Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 26 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstained this 17 day of March 2013.

Motion:__________________________ Second:__________________________

Peggy Nelson Janice Ashley

Chapter President Chapter Vice-President

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF THE LUPTON CHAPTER
Resolution No. 7SA - 2015 - 04 - 011

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Lupton Chapter is a certified local government unit of the Navajo Nation and each Chapter is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems.
reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

13. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

14. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

15. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Lupton Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables initiative on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Lupton Chapter, at a duly called meeting at the Lupton Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 10 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstained this 15th day of April, 2013.

Motion: DONNA GILCHRIST  
Chapter President

Second: JACKIE YAZZIE, JR
Chapter Vice President

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Council Delegate

TSA: 2013-04-01
SUPPORTING DCAA - TAX 2%
RESOLUTION OF THE OAK SPRINGS CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCES’ (DCAA) NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATION TITLED “THE HEALTHY DINÉ NATION ACT” THAT WILL ELIMINATING SALES TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AND IMPORSE A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX ON SWEETENED BEVERAGE/JUNK FOOD WITH ITS REVENUE GOING BACK TO CHAPTERS FOR COMMUNITY WELLNESS PROJECTS ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Oak Springs Chapter is a recognized Chapter of the Navajo Nation Government, vested with certain authority and responsibilities to consider and take actions on matters of local concerns that are in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its chapter members and residents; and

2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Navajo Nation Local Governance Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to Chapters governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo law, including custom and tradition, to make decisions over local matters, and to govern with responsibility and accountability to the local citizens; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established in March 2012 and includes approximately 55 community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

4. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajo with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

5. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost treating diabetes related complications (e.g., blindness, amputations, heart attacks, etc.) can exceed $100,000 per person; and

6. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and
7. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

8. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

9. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight, obesity, diabetes and associated health complications; and

10. The no tax on fresh fruits and vegetables will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes, in addition to the two percent (2%) sales tax on sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items that will also improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

11. The revenue generated from the 2% sales tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for their own wellness projects such as community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, farmer markets, family picnic grounds, cooking and health education classes; and

12. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Oak Springs Chapter supports the DCAA’s proposed Navajo Legislation titled “The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act” by eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables and imposing a 2% sales tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food with the revenue going back to Chapters for community wellness projects on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered at a duly called chapter meeting at Oak Springs, Navajo Nation (Arizona), where a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of ___ in favor, ___ opposed, and ___ abstained on this 21st day of January, 2014.

Motion: Margaret Smith Second: Christine Jones

Ray Benchman, President

P.O. Box 486, Window Rock, Arizona 86515
Telephone: (928) 871-6179 Fax: (928) 871-6162 Email Address: oaksprings@navajochapters.org

01/30/2014 5:41 PM PAX: 9288716182
Resolution of
K'Ai'Bii'Tó Chapter
P.O. Box 1761 * Kaibeto, AZ * 86053. Ph#: (928) 673-5850/5851 Fax#: (928) 673-5850

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The K'ai'Bii'Tó Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy BMI’s (Body Mass Index) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. Indian Health Service estimates that it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes and the cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the six service units and two service areas of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and
10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit-drinks, fruit-punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight, obesity, and Diabetes, and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The K’ai’Bi’To’ Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Kaibeto Chapter at a duly called meeting in Kaibeto, Navajo Nation, Az., at which a quorum of Chapter members were present and that the same was passed by a vote of 29 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained this 14th day of October, 2012.

Kelsey A. Begaye, President
Ernest Goatson, Vice-President
Linda Israel, Sec/Treas.

Elroy Martin, Grazing Official
Duane Tsingine, Council Delegate

Motion: Sane Baloo
Second: Gray White Rock
RESOLUTION OF THE
TS’AH BII KIN CHAPTER

TBK 2013-076-001

SUPPORTING THE DINE’ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:
1. The Ts’ah Bii Kin Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and
2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and
3. The Dine’ Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and
4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and
5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are prediabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and
6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and
7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and
8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and
10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and
11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities in accordance with local Community Land Use Plans approved by Navajo Nation chapterst to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.
2. The Ts’ah Bii Kin Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION
WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly presented and considered by the Ts’ah Bii Kin Chapter at a duly called meeting at Ts’ah Bii Kin Chapter at Ts’ah Bii Kin, Arizona, Navajo Nation, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 24 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstained this 10 day of March 2013.

Motion: ________________________________
Second: ________________________________

Loretta Tisi
Martha Tate, Chapter President

Geraldine Chee, Chapter Vice-President

Rhonda Soto, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate
SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGE/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The LeChée Chapter is certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 AND 4029(A) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County, and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the member of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter Pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative affect on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajo with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate range from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for development for Type 2 diabetes in youth; and

Council Delegate: Duane Tsinigine
Chapter President: Irene Nez-Whitekiller
Vice President: Yvonne S. Bigman
Secretary/Treasurer: Elizabeth Nez
Grazing Committee Member: Sara Dalen
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest source of added sweeteners in the United States Diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increase their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drinks consumptions increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sport drinks, etc. And junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc. will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The LeChee Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverages/Junk food Taxation initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the LeChee Chapter at a duly called meeting at LeChee Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of _27_ in favor, _1_ opposed, and _1_ abstained this _11th_ day of March 2013.

Motion: Ivan Gamble

Second: Betty Thompson

Irene Nez-Whitekiller, Chapter President

Yvonne Bigman, Chapter Vice-President

Elizabeth Nez, Chapter Secretary

Duane Tsinigine, Council Delegate

Sara Dale, Grazing Committee Member.
BODAWAY/GAP CHAPTER PLANNING MEETING  
WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY  
MARCH 4, 2013

AGENDA

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

II. INVOCATION:  

III. INTRODUCTION:

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

V. NEW BUSINESS:  
Present Day Resolution

VI. REPORTS:

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
1. ECVO meeting on March 6, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.
2. District Grazing Committee meeting on March 7, 2013 at 10 a.m. in Cameron
3. Regular chapter meeting on March 9, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. (2pm)
4. CERT training on March 15, 2013 at 6-9 p.m. at 911 Sawmill Road in Flagstaff
5. CERT training on March 16, 2013 at 8-5 p.m. at 911 Sawmill Road in Flagstaff
6. CERT training on March 17, 2013 at 8-5 p.m. at 911 Sawmill Road in Flagstaff
7. Western Agency Council meeting on March 16, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Tonalea
8. SWCD meeting on March 22, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Gap chapter house
9. ATVO Lottery on March 28, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.
10. Planning meeting on April 1, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.
11. CERT training on April 5-7, 2013 from 8-5 p.m. at 808 Coppermine Road in Page
12. Bodaway/Gap regular chapter meeting at 1:00 p.m. on April 13, 2013
13. Navajo Rural Addressing meeting on April 17, 2013 at Tuba City chapter house
14. Work session on April 27, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Tuba City chapter house

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:
1. Benediction:

Thank you for coming...come again

Perry J. Slim, Sr. – President  
Govern J. Begay – Vice President  
Bessie Zohne – Secretary/Treasurer
LEUPP CHAPER
CPO Box 5428 Leupp, Arizona 86035
Telephone: (928) 686-3227 or 3229
Facsimile: (928) 686-3232

LEUPP REGULAR CHAPTER MEETING
March 17, 2013 at 12:00 PM
LEUPP CHAPTER, LEUPP, ARIZONA

I. PRELIMINARIES:
   A. Meeting called to order at ___AM/PM
   B. Invocation:
   C. Review and Adopt Agenda.
      Motion: Second: Vote in Favor: ___ Oppose: ___ Abstentions: ___
   D. Review and Adopt last meeting minutes.
      Motion: Second: Vote in Favor: ___ Oppose: ___ Abstentions: ___

II. INTRODUCTIONS:

III. REPORTS:
   A. Walter Phelps, Council Delegate
   B. Allen Jones, Grazing Committee Member
   C. Chapter Officials

IV. OLD BUSINESS:
   A. Authorizing and approving the Leupp Chapter 2013 Navajo Nation Sales Tax Budget in the amount of $42,144.00.

V. NEW BUSINESS:
   A. Requisition Report

### February 2013 Requisitions

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Motion: Second: Vote in Favor: ___ Oppose: ___ Abstentions: ___

B. February 2013 Financial Report-Genevieve Riggs
   Motion: Second: Vote in Favor: ___ Oppose: ___ Abstentions: ___

C. Little Colorado River Valley Chapter Area Natural Resources Conservation Plan. Walter Phelps
   Motion: Second: Vote in Favor: ___ Oppose: ___ Abstentions: ___

D. Authorizing and approving the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2012 Carryover to Fiscal Year 2013 in the amount of $2,683.26.

E. Recommending and approving to re-establish the membership for the Community Land Use Planning Committee (CLUPC) for Leupp Chapter. Roberta Gorman
   Motion: Second: Vote in Favor: ___ Oppose: ___ Abstentions: ___
G. Little Colorado River Valley Chapter Area Natural Resources Conservation Plan. Walter Phelps
   Motion:   Second:   Vote in Favor:   Oppose:   Abstentions:

H. Supporting and approving the request of the Leupp Chapter to establish a partnership with Sacred
   Power Corporation to bring solar energy light bulbs to 100 homes in the Leupp Community.
   Motion:   Second:   Vote in Favor:   Oppose:   Abstentions:

I. Supporting Resolution to retain the Social Services here at Leupp, Community permanently to serve
   the community and the surrounding communities.
   Motion:   Second:   Vote in Favor:   Oppose:   Abstentions:

V. REPORTS:
   A. Council Delegate
   B. Grazing Official

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
   A. Swaback Report Meeting: March 8, 2013 @ 8:00 AM/PM
   B. District (5) Five Council Meeting @ Tsidi Toll: March 9, 2013 @ 9:00 AM/PM
   C. WNA Council Meeting at Tonalea: March 16, 2013 @ 10:00 AM/PM
   D. Regular Chapter Meeting: March 17, 2013 @ 12:00 AM/PM
   E. Veteran Meeting on March 09, 2013 @ 2:00PM

VII. ADJOURNMENT:
    Motion:   Second:   Vote in Favor:   Oppose:   Abstentions:
RESOLUTION OF THE KAYENTA CHAPTER
Resolution No. KAY-03-03

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Kayenta Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMIs) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries,
etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Kayenta Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Kayenta Chapter at a duly called meeting at Kayenta Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 22 in favor, 5 opposed, and 10 abstained this 20 day of March 2013.

Motion: Andrew Bradley
Discussion: Action to table resolution. No vote. Requested more education.

Second: Ben Johnson

Chapter President

Chapter Vice-President

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Council Delegate
Resolution No: TND-04-0041 -2013

RESOLUTION OF THE TO’NANEES’DIZI LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The To’Nanees’Dizi Local Government pursuant to Resolution No. TCDC-18-04, is a certified and recognized chapter by the Navajo Nation council, vested with the authority and responsibility to provide and address local planning within its community; and

2. Pursuant to the Title 26, Navajo Nation Council delegated to Chapter governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo laws, including customs, tradition and allow chapter to make decisions to govern with responsibility and accountability to community membership; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and
INFORMATION RELEASE FORM

Name of Requestor: Gloria Ann Begay  Date: May 5, 2013
Address: PO Box 1827, Gallup, NM Telephone: 505-399-1491
Organization/Chapter: Dine' Community Advocacy Alliance

REQUESTED DOCUMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Document Title</th>
<th>Document Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>DCAA Food Tax Support Resolution</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
<td>1</td>
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Purpose and Use: (Must be detailed and complete)
Will submit copy to Navajo Nation Council in Summer Session 2013 with final Food Tax Legislation (2% tax on junk food; 0% tax on fruits, veggies, water)

***Copy fees will apply for copying of documents, which requestor shall be responsible for.
Black and White Copies = $0.50 per page  Colored Copies: $0.75 per page

Number of Copies: 1  Total Cost (including tax):

Gloria Ann Begay
Requestor's Signature

May 5, 2013

OFFICE USE ONLY

APPROVED: ☐  DENIED: ☐

CHAPTER MANAGER SIGNATURE  DATE

EXPLANATION FOR DENIAL:
RESOLUTION OF THE LUKACHUKAI CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION,

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to the “Local Government Act” 26 N.N.C. Chapter 1, Section 3 (A) the Lukachukai Chapter (“The Chapter”) is continued as a certified local chapter of the Navajo Nation Government by the Navajo Nation Council resolution number CHP-34-98; and

2. Pursuant to chapter 1, subchapter 1, section 131 (1)(2) of the same “Act” the chapter has the responsibility and authority to promote, protect and preserve the interest and general welfare including the safety of its community people, programs, property, etc.; and

3. Pursuant to the “Self-Determination Act” (P.L. 93-638) as amended by the U.S. Congress, the Navajo Nation is entitled and supported to initiate plans and make decisions, recommendations, request according to the needs, desires; and

4. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

5. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

6. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetics. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

7. At an average, it cost over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

8. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajos adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and
9. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development of Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

10. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

11. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, Sports drinks, etc., and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

12. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

13. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds and health education classes; and

14. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Lukachukai Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Lukachukai Chapter at a duly called meeting in Lukachukai, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present that same was passed by vote of 22 in favor 0 opposed and 0 abstained on this 17th day of March, 2013.

Motioned By: Shirley Leonard

Seconded By: Lena Leonard

Philip Sandoval, Jr., Chp. President

Herman Clement, Chp. Sec./Tres.
Resolution of the Many Farms Chapter

Supporting the Dine’ Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) Sugar-Sweetened Beverages/Junk Food Initiative by Imposing a Two Percent (2%) Sales Tax Increase on the Navajo Nation.

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 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. The Dine’ Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes (70) Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The Dine’ Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children, and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011; 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 80% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc., and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities in accordance with local Community Land Use Plans approved by Navajo Nation Chapters to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. There is overwhelming public support for the proposal to increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The Many Farms Chapter hereby supports the Dine' Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) Sugar-Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a (2%) tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

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 15 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained this 08th day of April 2013.

Motion: Harvey Towne
Second: Mahalo Farrell

Katherine O. Arthur, Chapter President
Charlotte J. Begaye, Vice President
Lucy E. Naize, Secretary/Treasurer

Johnny Naize, Council Delegate
Roland Tso, Grazing Official
RESOLUTION OF THE CHINLE NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL
Resolution No._________

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATION OF TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Chinle Agency Council is composed of individual Chapters and they are certified local governmental unit of each of their Chapters and each Chapter is authorized by [2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) provide "authorizing language that each Farm Boards were established as part of the Chapter government functions] to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting of the Chinle Agency Council, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI's) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day
consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fruits and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Chinle Navajo Agency Council hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase and elimination of tax on fruits and vegetables initiative on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Chinle Agency Council, at a duly called meeting at Hardrock Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of _37_ in favor, _07_ opposed, and _13_ abstained this _6th_ day of April, 2013.

Motion: Charlotte Begaye                      Second: Priscilla Clark

[Signature]

Aaron Yazzie, Chinle Agency Council President
RESOLUTION OF THE
LOW MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
Resolution No. ____________

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Low Mountain Chapter is a certified local government unit of the Navajo Nation and each Chapter is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI's) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and
13. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

14. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

15. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Low Mountain Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables initiative on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Low Mountain Chapter, at a duly called meeting at the Low Mountain Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 22 in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 abstained this 4th day of April, 2013.

Motion: Sadie Gare          Second: Marie Goo

Chapter President          Chapter Vice President

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF THE CHINLE CHAPTER
NAVAJO NATION
CHIN-APR-13-025

SUPPORTING THE DINE’ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:
1. Chinle Chapter, a recognized certified local government of the Navajo Nation, vested with the power and authority to advocate on behalf of its constituents for the improvement of health, education, safety, and general welfare; and
2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 102-7, all the members of each Chapter, at a duty called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and
3. The Dine’ Community Advocacy (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocacy representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and
4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth, and children; and
5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-Pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and
6. At an average, if cost over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and
7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and
8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increase the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and
10. An increases in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. Junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and
SUPPORTING THE DINE’ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverage and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

13. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverage and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Chinle Chapter hereby supports the Dine’ Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) sweetened beverages/junk food initiative by imposing a two percent (2%) Sales Tax increase and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify that the foregoing chapter resolution was duly considered by the Chinle Chapter at a duly called meeting in Chinle, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 21 in favor, 4 opposed, and 6 abstained, this 28th day of April 2013.

Motioned by: TIMOTHY BEGAY  Second by: OSCAR BIA

Andy R. Aye, President  Priscilla M. Clark, Vice President

Cynthia Hunter, Secretary / Treasurer
RESOLUTION OF THE PINON CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON SWEETENED BEVERAGES AND JUNK FOOD AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND WATER ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Pinon Chapter is a certified local government unit of the Navajo Nation and each Chapter is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks,
fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

13. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, and water that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

14. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, health education classes, farming activities; and

15. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits, vegetables and water among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Pinon Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax and eliminating tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, and water initiative on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Pinon Chapter, at a duly called meeting in Pinon, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 23 in favor, 00 opposed, and 03 abstained this 14th day of May, 2013.

Bessie S. Allen  Evelyn M. Meadows
PRESIDENT  VICE-PRESIDENT

Ramona Nalwood  Dwight Witherspoon
SECRETARY/TREASURER  COUNCIL DELEGATE

Motion: Cleo Johnson  Second: Phyllis Tache

2
RESOLUTION OF ROCK POINT CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) LEGISLATION, "THE HEALTHY DINE' NATION ACT OF 2013" ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CAP-34-98, the Rock Point Chapter is a certified Navajo Nation Chapter Government and is delegated governmental authority and the responsibility to plan and implement projects for community improvements; to review, recommend, advocate, protect and preserve the general interest and welfare, safety and education and/or support matters pertaining to its constituents and to address and attempt to resolve the needs and concerns of the Rock Point Chapter; and

2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 1(B) Rock Point Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and to make appropriate corrections when necessary and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other local/regional agencies for appropriate action(s); and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011; 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI's) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and
7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase of quality and nutritious foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts contains healthy vitamins and minerals supports strong body, immune, digestive, and other body systems, and water without added sugars, chemicals, and other un-natural additives, which prevents obesity and diabetes; and

11. The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013 is a new tax to improve the health and wellness of the Navajo people that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes, under the following provisions:

   a. No sales tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, nut butters, seeds, and water to encourage the purchase and consumption of nutritious foods; and

   b. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages to include such items as soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc., and junk food to include such items as chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., that will reduce their purchase and consumption; and

   c. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as fitness equipment, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, farmer markets, family picnic grounds, health education classes, farming activities; and

12. There is a large public and chapter support for the proposed tax on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, nut butters, seeds, and water among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Rock Point Chapter hereby fully supports the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance’s “The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013” on the Navajo Nation.
CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered by the Rock Point Chapter at a duly called meeting at Rock Point, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 31 in favor, 1 opposed, 6 abstained, this 17th day of September, 2013.

Janice Lee Jim, Chapter President

Jennie Harvey, Chapter Vice-President

Nancy J. Harvey, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Nelson Begaye, Navajo Nation Council

Reeder Descheny, Chapter Grazing Representative

1st Motion: Phillip Peacock

2nd Motion: Anita Rossie
Resolution of the Shiprock Chapter
SHIPROCK, NAVAJO NATION

SUPPORTING A REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE DINÉ COMMUNITY
ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) PROPOSAL OF IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT
(2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD

WHEREAS:

1. The Shiprock Chapter of the Navajo Nation acts on this resolution pursuant to the authority conferred upon the chapter through Navajo Nation Code Title 26, Chapter 1, Section 1, Part B which states, “Through adoption of this act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to chapters governmental authority with respect to local matters consistent with Navajo Nation laws; including custom and tradition”; and

2. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing Navajo Nation communities as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, their related complications and its negative effects on elders, families, youth and children; and

3. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reported the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes and the cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

4. In the past two decades, the prevalence of being overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo people. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

5. Being overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Being overweight is the leading cause in the development of Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

7. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar-sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

8. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages including soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food including chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk of being overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and
9. The DCAA proposes the taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

10. The DCAA proposes that the revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Shiprock Chapter hereby supports a Reference Question on the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance proposal of imposing a two (2%) tax increase on Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food sales on the Navajo Nation;

2. The Shiprock Chapter also proposes that prior to pursuing the qualification and scheduling of the referendum question that the Navajo Nation Council consider substantive measures to address and combat the health crisis being experienced by the Navajo people as result of the consumption of the sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food.

CERTIFICATION

Motioned by: Frank Dayish, Jr.

Seconded by: Sammie Ahkeah

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and considered at a duly called Chapter meeting, at which a quorum was present and that the same was approved by a vote of 63 in favor, 0- opposed and 1 abstention on this 17th day of March, 2013.

Duane H. Yazzie, President

J. Kaibah Begay, Secretary/Treasurer

Tommie Yazzie, Vice President

Russell Begaye, Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF THE RED VALLEY CHAPTER
Resolution No: RV-1320/20

SUPPORTING THE DIABETIC COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE DCAA, SUGAR-
SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT
(2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Red Valley Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is
   authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local
   community and make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and
   Local Agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called
   meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70
   Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications
   and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another
   75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo
   pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index
   (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating
   diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our
   Navajo adults and children. In 2009 obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area
   Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all
   age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that
   include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory
   problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for
   the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the
   largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day
   consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption
   increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks,
    fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries,
    etc. will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity,
    diabetes, and the associated health complications, and
11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities in accordance with local Community Land Use Plans approved by Navajo Nation chapters to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The Red Valley Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly presented and considered by the Red Valley Chapter at a duly called meeting at Red Valley Chapter at Red Valley, Apache County, Arizona, Navajo nation at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 18 in favor, 4 opposed and 4 abstained this 14th day of April 2013.

Motion: 

Sally Bencey
Chapter Vice-President

Second:

Nelcie Harry
Chapter President

Lee Shonnie
Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

D. Dee
Council Delegate
NZC 10 15

SUPPORTING THE DINE' COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 26 N.M.C. (A), the Nenahnezad Chapter was certified on November 10, 1955 as a chapter of the Navajo Nation; and under 11 N.M.C. Part 1, (B), the Nenahnezad Chapter is delegated the governmental authority to make decisions over local matters consistent with Navajo Laws including custom, tradition, and fiscal matters; and

2. The Nenahnezad Chapter has been informed by the DCAA that the proposed initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax on Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Nenahnezad Chapter supports the DCAA Sugar-Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

2. The Nenahnezad Chapter directs the Community Coordinator, Chapter Officials, and Council Delegate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Nenahnezad Chapter at a duly called meeting at Nenahnezad (New Mexico) Navajo Nation. A motion was made by Martha Begay and seconded by Travis Begay and the same was passed by a vote of 25 in favor and 9 opposed, this April 14, 2013.

CONCURRED:

Norman C. Begay, President
Philbert Johnson, Vice President
Juanita Begay, Secretary/Treasurer

Lorenzo Bates, Council Delegate
SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA)
SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. The TeecNosPos Chapter is a certified local government unit of the Navajo Nation and each chapter is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and;
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.Code, Sec.103(A), the members of each chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to see the authority delegated to the chapter pursuant to this act; and;
3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocated representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and;
4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and;
5. According to Navajo Area IHS, there are 23,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 73,000 are pre-diabetic. The sweet success data report in 2011 states: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes, 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI)’s in overweight or obese range; and;
6. At an average, it costs over $31,000 per person annually to treat diabetes and the treatment relating to complications can exceed $100,000; and;
7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults/children. In 2009, the obesity rate within the 8 service units of Navajo Area IHS range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and;
8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, stroke and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and;
9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the U.S. diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and;
10. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea; sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc. will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and
11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and;
12. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The TecNosPos Chapter supports the DCAA Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase and eliminating across the Navajo Nation, and

2. It is further resolved that the revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify the foregoing resolution was duly considered by TecNosPos Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona, by a vote of 22 in favor, 0 oppose and 0 abstain on this 11th day of May, 2013. Motioned by Lucy Upshaw and seconded by Julia Tazze.

Alfred Larry Jim, Chapter President

Arnold Bitali, Vice President

Kenneth Maryboy, Council Delegate

Verma Francisco, Chapter Secretary
RESOLUTION OF MEXICAN WATER CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Mexican Water Chapter is an authorized governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. pursuant to 29 Navajo Nation Code, Section 109(A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes, 69% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMs) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2005 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development of Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar-sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc. will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities in accordance with local Community Land Use Plans approved by Navajo Nation chapters to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The Mexican Water Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Mexican Water Chapter of the Navajo Nation at a duly called meeting in Mexican Water (Navajo Nation) Chapter, Utah at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 20 in favor, 11 opposed, and 01 abstained, on this 7th day of April 2013.

Jerry Tsosie, Chapter President

David L. John, Vice-President

Mary Ann Woody, Secretary/Treasurer
REQUESTING TO OPPOSE THE LEGISLATION # 0085-51 AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE AND NAA'BIK'YATILI: AMENDING 24 N.N.C. §§605 ET. SEQ. BY ENACTING THE NAVAJO NATION JUNK FOOD TAX ACT OF 2013 AND APPROVING THE ELIMINATION OF SALES TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Whereas:

1. The Tolikan Chapter is officially recognized as a Local Governance Act certified Chapter of the Navajo Nation pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code Section 103 to exercise authorities to review all matter affecting the community and make appropriate recommendation to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State and Local agencies, as who may have the responsibility for consideration and approving such actions; and

2. Through regular chapter meeting on April 07, 2013, the chapter officials and members approved the resolution opposing the Legislation # 0085-51 An action relating to Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Law and Order Committee, Budget and Finance Committee and Naa'bi'k'iyati: Amending 24 N.N.C. §§605 Et. Seq. by enacting the Navajo Nation Junk Food Tax Act of 2013 and approving the elimination of sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables; and

3. The Tolikan Chapter officials and community members are in favor of the referendum to vote on the tax increase for the junk food and will not support the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Law and Order Committee, Budget and Finance Committee and Naa'bi'k'iyati with the Navajo Nation Junk Food Tax Act of 2013 eliminating sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables; and

4. The Tolikan Chapter officials and community members request the referendum to vote on the tax increase for the junk food for the Navajo Nation.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That:
The Tolikan Chapter hereby approved resolution opposing the Legislation # 0085-51 An action relating to Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Law and Order Committee, Budget and Finance Committee and Naa'bi'k'iyati: Amending 24 N.N.C. §§605 Et. Seq. by enacting the Navajo Nation Junk Food Tax Act of 2013 and approving the elimination of sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables.

CERTIFICATION

The Tolikan Chapter hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered by the Tolikan Chapter (Dine Nation) at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present and was motioned by: Woody Lee, Seconded by Julius Hanley with a vote of 32 in favor, 00 opposed, 01 abstained, this 7th day of April 2013.

Lena Clark, President

Lovenia Lee, Vice President

Kenneth Maryboy, Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF THE RED MESA CHAPTER

OPPOSING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Red Mesa Navajo Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all ages groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc. will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and
12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities in accordance with local Community Land Use Plans approved by Navajo Nation chapters to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverage and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.
2. The Red Mesa Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly presented and considered by the Red Mesa Chapter at a duly called meeting at Red Mesa Chapter at Red Mesa, San Juan County, New Mexico or Arizona, Navajo Nation, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 19 in favor, 01 opposed and 05 abstained this 14th day of April, 2013.

Motion: Wilford Jones
Herman Farley, President

Second: Floyd Tsimmijinnie
Doris J. Tsimmijinnie, Vice-President

Marlene Dec-Ben, Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth Maryboy, Council Delegate
Resolution of the 
Tsee Dáá K'áán Community Chapter

TDK 1304-04

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS:

1. The Tsee Dáa K'áán Community Chapter is a certified local government unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4002 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103(A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Services there are 25, 069 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 90% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate range from 17% to 30% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, cancer and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities in accordance with local Community Land Use Plans approved by Navajo Nation chapters to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

P.O. BOX 1288 • SHIPROCK, NM 87420 • PHONE (505) 368-1599 • FAX (505) 368-1598
Email: tseeaakan@navajochapters.org
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. There is overwhelming public support for the purpose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The Tse Daa K'o'aan Community Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at duly called meeting of the Tse Daa K'o'aan Community Chapter, (Navajo Nation), San Juan County, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and it was passed by a vote of 23 in favor, 0 opposed, and 4 abstained on this 19th day of April 2013.

Motion: Nah Numkena
Second: Jamie Pioche

President, James B. Pioche

Vice President, Charlie T. Jones, Jr.

Secretary/Treasurer, Charlotte A. Jones
RESOLUTION OF THE BECLABITO CHAPTER
BECLABITO, NAVAJO NATION

SUPPORTING THE DINE' COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Beclabito Chapter is certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029 (a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine' Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMIs) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

President — Raymond H. Charley    Vice President — Jerry Begay    Secretary/Treasurer — Albert J. Paul
Council Delegate — David L. Tom    Gracing Official — Vincent Reda
8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development of Type 2 Diabetes in youth.

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar-sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women, and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc., and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications, and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people.

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities in accordance with local Community Land Use Plans approved by Navajo Nation Chapters to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. There is overwhelming public support for the propose tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

2. The Beclabito Chapter hereby supports the DGAA Sugar-Sweetened/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.
CERTIFICATION

We, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Beclabito Chapter at a duly called meeting in Beclabito, Navajo Nation, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 14 abstained, this 17 day of April, 2013.

Raymond H. Charley, President

Jerry Benally, Vice-President

Albert J. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer

David L. Tom, Council Delegate

Vincent Bekis, Grazing Official

Motion by: George Kelly, Jr.
Second by: Tom Bekis
RESOLUTION
TOAATI/GH-13-03-13-05

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Toadlena Two Grey Hills Chapter is a certified local governmental unit of the Navajo Nation and is authorized by NNMCS Code § 3-064 and 41429(c) to research and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval, and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 403(A), the members of Toadlena/Two Grey Hills Chapter, at a duly called Regular Chapter Meeting, is authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act, and

3. The Dine' Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Services, there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The School Success data reports, the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 85% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI) in the overweight or obese range and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes-related complications can exceed $100,000, and

7. In the past few decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2008 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 25% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development of Type 2 Diabetes in youth and
9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar-sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 36% in women, and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc., and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications and

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people, and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be redistributed for communities to plan for community organized and owned wellness initiatives, such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

13. There is overwhelming public support for this proposed tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Toadlena Two Grey Hills Chapter hereby supports the DEMA Sugar-Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Toadlena Two Grey Hills Chapter at a duly called meeting at Toadlena Two Grey Hills Chapter, Navajo Nation, Navajo Nation, New Mexico at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 23rd day of March, 2013.

Motion: Edison Johnson

Second: Nelson Cambridge

Andrew Deschene, Chapter Vice President

UNAVAILABLE FOR SIGNATURE

Lolita Spencer, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

David Li Tom, Council Delegate
RESOLUTION OF SAN JUAN CHAPTER

SUPPORTING THE DINE’ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA)
SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING
A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. San Juan Chapter is a duly certified Chapter under the Navajo Nation government pursuant to Resolution No. CD-86-82 and pursuant to 26 NNC §103 and they are delegated and authorized to review all matters affecting its community people; and

2. San Juan Chapter has been informed that the Dine’ Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established in March, 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation. DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative efforts on our elders, families, youth and children; and

3. San Juan Chapter has been informed that according to the Navajo Area Indian Health Service that there are 25,000.00 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo Pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

4. San Juan Chapter has been informed that it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes and the cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

5. San Juan Chapter has been informed that in the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

6. San Juan Chapter has been informed that overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and
7. San Juan Chapter has been informed that Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women, and

8. San Juan Chapter has been informed that an increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sport drinks, etc., and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

9. San Juan Chapter has been informed that the taxation of two percent (2%) tax increase on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. San Juan Chapter and its community members hereby supports the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of supersweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the San Juan Chapter at a duly called meeting at San Juan Chapter, (New Mexico) Navajo Nation, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 27 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained on this 19th day of May, 2013.

Motion by: Angie Benally
Second by: Tennille ML Keswood

Rickie Nez, Chapter President

Robert C. Begay, Chapter Vice President

Esther Keeswood-Begay, Sec/Treasurer

Lorenzo Bates, Council Delegate
Resolution of the Newcomb Chapter.

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGE/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Newcomb Chapter is a duly certified Chapter governmental of the Navajo Nation with delegated authority to adopt ordinances and to adopt plans on matters of local concerns in the best interest of its local community membership; and

2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C Section 1 (B) Newcomb Chapter is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting the community and make appropriate correction when necessary and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate actions; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes seventy (70) Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continues negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Services there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI's) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, its cost over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes and can exceed $100,000 in related complications; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009, obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for development for Type-2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar-sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc., and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and
Resolution of the Newcomb Chapter.
Supporting the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA)
(2%) Sales Tax increase on the Navajo Nation

11. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes, and improve overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

12. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities in accordance with local Community Land Use Plans approved by Navajo Nation Chapters to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds and health education classes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Newcomb Chapter Membership hereby approves and supports the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) Sugar-Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food initiative by imposing a two percent (2%) Sales Tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing Chapter Resolution was considered by the Newcomb Chapter membership at a duly called Chapter meeting at Newcomb, Navajo Nation (New Mexico) at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 26 in favor; 01 opposed, 02 abstained this 9th day of June, 2013.

MOTIONED: Richard F. John

SECONDED: Jimmy E. Nez

David Randolph Sr., Chapter President

Donna L. Benally, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer
SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to the "Local Governance Act", Title 26 N.N.C., Chapter 1, Section 3 (s), the Cove Chapter was established as a Chapter of the Navajo Nation Government by the Navajo Nation Council Resolution Number CAP-34-98; and

2. Pursuant to Chapter 1, Sub Chapter 1, Section 131 (1) (2), of the Same "Act" The Cove Chapter has the responsibility and authority to promote, protect and preserve the interest and general welfare including the safety of its community people, programs, property and

3. Pursuant to the same resolution No. CAP-34-98, the Cove Chapter is a duly certified chapter of the Navajo Nation Government and is vested with the authority and responsibility to plan and implement projects in the best interest of the community; and

4. The Dine' Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation. The DCAA was a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, related complications and continue of negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Services there are 25,000 Navajo with diabetes related complication can exceed $100,000; and

5. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Services range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

6. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. In each 12
ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increase their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High in soft drink consumption increase the risk of diabetes by 38% in women. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, chips, candy, cookies, pastries etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complication; and

7. The Taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to NO tax on fresh and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

8. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds and health education classes. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverage and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Supporting the Dine' Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) Sweetened Beverages/Junk Food initiative imposing a two percent (2%) Sales Tax increase and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned certify the foregoing resolution was presented to the Cove Chapter at a duly called meeting at the Cove, Navajo Nation, Arizona and which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote 21 in favor. 00 oppose 05 abstention, this 13th of June 2013.

Motioned: NANCY BENALLY  
Second: JACK LEE FRAZIER

James Benally, President  
Cove Chapter

Post Office Box #378; Red Valley AZ 85544; Phone (928) 653-5806; Fax (928) 653-5808;  
Email: cove@navajochapter.org.
RESOLUTION OF THE SHEEPSPRINGS CHAPTER
Resolution No. 25-13-05-25

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Sheep Springs Chapter is a certified local government unit of the Navajo Nation and each Chapter is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI's) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and
13. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

14. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

15. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits and vegetables among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Sheepsprings Chapter supports the DCAA Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax increase and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables initiative on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Sheepsprings Chapter, at a duly called meeting at the Sheepsprings Chapter, Navajo Nation, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstained this 13th day of May, 2013.

Motion: Tommy Sandman
Second: Theresa Foster

Ernest Smith
Chapter President

Louis Charley
Chapter Vice President

Sally Olmstead
Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Council Delegate.
NORTHERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) LEGISLATION, "THE HEALTHY DINE' NATION ACT OF 2013" ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Northern Navajo Agency Council is a recognized political subdivision of the Navajo Nation and has the authority to advocate and make appropriate recommendations on behalf of the 20 Northern Navajo Agency chapters to the Navajo Nation Government, Federal, State, and local entities for appropriate action; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase of quality and nutritious foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts contains healthy vitamins and minerals supports strong body, immune, digestive, and other body systems, and water without added sugars, chemicals, and other un-natural additives, which prevents obesity and diabetes; and,
11. The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013 is a new tax to improve the health and wellness of the Navajo people that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes, under the following provisions:

a. No sales tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, nut butters, seeds, and water to encourage the purchase and consumption of nutritious foods; and

b. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages to include such items as soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc., and junk food to include such items as chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., that will reduce their purchase and consumption; and

c. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as fitness equipment, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, farmer markets, family picnic grounds, health education classes, farming activities; and

15. There is a large public and chapter support for the proposed tax on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, nut butters, seeds, and water among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Northern Agency Council hereby supports the Dine’ Community Advocacy Alliance’s “The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013” on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Northern Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting in Sanostee Chapter, New Mexico at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 46 in favor, 03 opposed, and 03 abstained, this 21st day of September 2013.

Motion: Bill Todachinnie
Second: Esther Keeswood-Begay

David John, Chairperson

Jerry Bodie, Vice Chairperson

Nancy Begay, Secretary
RESOLUTION
AC-OCT-14-003

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) LEGISLATION, “THE HEALTHY DINE NATION ACT OF 2013” ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to Navajo Tribal Council Resolution No. CMY-23-79, the Aneth Chapter is duly certified and recognized as an official local unit of the Navajo Nation Government with all duties, responsibilities, and authorities conferred according to 26 N.N.C. § 101 et seq. and has the power and authority to enact plans and development goals that are in the best interest of the community and to recommend, support, and approve community related projects; and

2. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March, 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

3. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

4. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Services there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

5. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $ 100,000; and

6. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 38% for all ages groups; and

7. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon, and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

8. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

9. An increase of quality and nutritious foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts contains healthy vitamins and minerals supports strong body, immune, digestive, and other body systems, and water without added sugars, chemicals, and other unnatural additives, which prevents obesity and diabetes; and
10. The Healthy Dine Nation Act of 2013 is a new tax to improve the health and wellness of the Navajo people that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes, under the following provisions:
   a. No sales tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, nut butters, seeds, and water to encourage the purchase and consumption of nutritious foods; and
   b. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages to include such items as soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc., and junk food to include such items as chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., that will reduce their purchase and consumption; and
   c. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as fitness equipment, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running, and bike trails, community gardens, farmer markets, family picnic grounds, health education classes, farming activities; and

11. There is a large public and chapter support for the proposed tax on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, nut butters, seeds, and water among communities across the Navajo Nation.

12. The Aneth Chapter accepts and approves this request which was presented before the Aneth Chapter Membership in which a legal quorum was present.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Aneth Chapter hereby supports the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance’s "The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013" on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that this foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Aneth Chapter Membership at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed with a vote of _38_ in favor, _0_ opposed and _0_ abstained the 15th Day, of October, 2013.

Motioned by: Helen Archie  
Seconded by: Harriett Lansing

[Signature]
Daneli Williams, Aneth Chapter President
RESOLUTION OF THE EASTERN NAVAJO HEALTH BOARD

SUPPORTING THE DINÉ COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES/JUNK FOOD INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A ONE PERCENT (1%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Eastern Navajo Health Board was established by Navajo Tribal Council Resolution, CMY-46-80, and is given the responsibility of promoting the interest and welfare of the Navajo People regarding all health and health-related plans and;

2. The Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes 70 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

3. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

4. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI’s) in the overweight or obese range; and

5. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

6. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

7. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for type 2 diabetes in youth; and

8. Sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sugar sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

9. An increase in the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

10. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and
11. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Eastern Navajo Health Board of the Navajo Nation supports the proposed tax increase on sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food among communities across the Navajo Nation.
2. The Eastern Navajo Health Board of the Navajo Nation supports and accepts the DCAA Sugar Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation Initiative to increase the cost of sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 1% tax increase on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Eastern Navajo Health Board and community at a duly called meeting at the Eastern Navajo Health Board meeting in Crownpoint, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and was passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention, on the 3rd day of December 03, 2012.

Motioned:
Anita David

Seconded:
Martha Charley

Lenajean Morgan, Vice Chair
RESOLUTION OF THE KAYENTA CHAPTER FARM BOARD
Resolution No. 

SUPPORTING THE DINE COMMUNITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (DCAA) INITIATIVE BY IMPOSING A TWO PERCENT (2%) SALES TAX INCREASE ON SWEETENED BEVERAGES AND JUNK FOOD AND ELIMINATING TAX ON FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND WATER ON THE NAVAJO NATION

WHEREAS:

1. The Farm Board of the Kayenta Chapter is a certified local government unit of the Navajo Nation and each Chapter is authorized by 2 N.T.C. 4001 and 4029(a) to review and promote matters that affect the local community and to make appropriate recommendations to the Navajo Nation, Federal, State, County and local agencies for consideration and/or approval; and

2. Pursuant to 26 Navajo Nation Code, Section 103 (A), the members of each Chapter, at a duly called meeting, are authorized to oversee the authority delegated to the Chapter pursuant to this act; and

3. The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) was established on March 2012 and includes approximately 55 Community Advocates representing communities across the Navajo Nation; and

4. The DCAA was activated as a response to the high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on our elders, families, youth and children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic. The Sweet Success data reports the following in 2011: 31% of Navajo pregnancies were complicated by diabetes; 89% of these women had pre-pregnancy Body Mass Index (BMI<sup>2</sup>) in the overweight or obese range; and

6. At an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

7. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and

8. Overweight and obesity are significant risk factors for many debilitating diseases and conditions that include heart disease, hypertension, colon and breast cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, reproductive complications, and diabetes. Overweight is the most important risk factor for the development for Type 2 Diabetes in youth; and

9. Sweetened beverages and junk food contribute to obesity. Sweetened beverages are the largest single source of added sweeteners in the United States diet. Each 12-ounce soft drink per day consumed by children increases their odds of becoming obese by 60%. High soft drink consumption increases the risk of diabetes by 38% in women; and

10. An increase in the cost of sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened tea, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and
13. The taxation of two percent (2%) tax on all sweetened beverages and junk food would reduce consumption of these items, in addition to no tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, and water that will improve nutrition, decrease obesity and diabetes and improve the overall well-being of our Navajo people; and

14. The revenue generated from the tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, health education classes, farming activities; and

15. There is a large public support for the propose tax increase on sweetened beverages and junk food and elimination of tax on fresh fruits, vegetables and water among communities across the Navajo Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Farm Board of the Kayenta Chapter hereby supports the DCAA Sweetened Beverage/Junk Food Taxation to increase the cost of sweetened beverages and junk food by imposing a 2% tax and eliminating tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, and water initiative on the Navajo Nation.

CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Farm Board of the Kayenta Chapter, at a duly called meeting at the NRCS Building in Kayenta, Navajo Nation, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed with a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 8th day of May, 2013.

Motion: __________________________ Second: __________________________

[Signatures]

Farm Board President

Farm Board Vice President

[Signature]

Farm Board Secretary/Treasurer
Resolution of the
Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

Supporting the Initiative to Promote Navajo People to Eat Healthy Foods and Recognizing Navajo People Individual Rights and Freedom of Choice

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 920, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (herein referred to as "Commission") is established in the Legislative Branch as an entity of the Navajo Nation government; and

2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CIN-15-08, the purpose of the Commission is to network with local, state, national and international groups and advocate for recognition of Navajo human rights; and educate the public about human rights; and

3. By Resolution NNHRCFEB-02-09, the Commission adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("Declaration") as the minimum standard of achievement for the Commission when advocating for and protecting Navajo human rights. The Navajo Nation government advocated for the adoption of the Declaration by providing recommendations during the drafting of the Declaration at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The Declaration was adoption, after fifteen years of work, by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007; and

4. The Declaration is unanimously supported by the United Nations' nation-states, including the United States of America. The Declaration provides for minimum legal standard that nation-states must achieve when addressing human rights of indigenous peoples. Furthermore, nation-states have agreed to change their domestic laws and policies in order to advance indigenous human rights expressed in the Declaration. The following articles provide the legal standards to be achieved by nation-states:

Article 21

1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth,
children and persons with disabilities.

**Article 23**

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.


"The Framework rests on three pillars. The first is the State duty to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including business enterprises, through appropriate policies, regulation, and adjudication. The second is the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, which means that business enterprises should act with due diligence to avoid infringing on the rights of others and to address adverse impacts with which they are involved. The third is the need for greater access by victims to effective remedy, both judicial and non-judicial."

6. The Human Rights Council noted in the Working Group on Business and Human Rights guiding principles that nation-states have the obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights and fundamental freedoms. Principle 12 provides that:

"The responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights refers to internationally recognized human rights – understood, at a minimum, as those expressed in the International Bill of Human Rights and the principles concerning fundamental rights set out in the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work."

The Human Rights Council further commented that:

Depending on circumstances, business enterprises may need to consider additional standards. For instance, enterprises should respect the human rights of individuals belonging to specific groups or populations that require particular attention, where they may have adverse human rights impacts on them. In this connection, United Nations
instruments have elaborated further on the rights of indigenous peoples; women; national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; children; persons with disabilities; and migrant workers and their families. Moreover, in situations of armed conflict enterprises should respect the standards of international humanitarian law. (Emphasis Added)

7. Prior to colonization, the Navajo people used traditional food sources composed of grains, vegetables, fruits, meats and fats that were free from preservatives and additives. The traditional foods consist of the following; parsley, wild onions, wild spinach squash, corn, corn mush, wild berries, pinion nuts, peaches, yucca banana, chilchín, sumac berries and wild game like, turkey, antelope meat, squirrel, prairie dog, deer meat, horse meat and other foods that provided adequate nourishment for healthy living. Sweeteners and sweets were limited to natural foods, like corn cakes, corn milk, watermelon and goat’s milk. White flour, canned and processed foods were later introduced to the Navajo people when they were exiled to Fort Sumner, New Mexico in 1863; and

8. In addition to having collective rights, the Commission understands that Navajo people have individual rights and the freedom of choice when purchasing and consuming food, traditional and non-traditional, on and off the Navajo Nation. According to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, every person has the “right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food.” The Commission understands the right to food is a human right recognized under international law that protects the right of all human beings to feed themselves in dignity, either by producing their food or by purchasing it; and

9. The Commission further understands a person needs adequate incomes to exercise the right to purchase food and should not be subjected to taxation when purchasing and consuming food of their freedom of choice. Furthermore, according to Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, “the right to food is not a right to a minimum ration of calories, proteins and other nutrients or a right to be fed. It is about being guaranteed the right to feed oneself”, which include the choices Navajo people make when purchasing and consuming food that are both traditional and non-traditional.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission hereby supports the initiative to promote that Navajo people eat healthy foods and exercise health life styles because the Navajo people have the human right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs, which includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their traditional foods and exercises.
2. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission further recognizes that all Navajo people have individual rights and freedom of choice when purchasing and consuming food on and off the Navajo Nation.

3. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission further hereby directs the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission to transmit this resolution to the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation President and Vice-President, and make available to citizens of the Navajo Nation through appropriate means, including, but not limited to, posting the resolution on the Commission’s website.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission at a duly called meeting at St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that it was passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed this 12th day of July 2013.

Steven A. Darden, Chairperson
RESOLUTION OF THE
DINÉ BI OLTA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION

Approving the Diné Bi Olta School Board Association (DBOSBA)'s Support For the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA)'s Resolution: “Healthy Diné Nation Act Of 2013”

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to NNC10§301, The Navajo Nation has established the Diné Bi Olta School Board Association to represent local community school boards at the Navajo Nation. This Association is the only school board association recognized by the Navajo Nation to represent local community school boards; and

2. Pursuant to NNC10§ 302, the Diné Bi Olta School Board Association is authorized to consider educational programs, problems and issues of a Navajo Nation-wide significance; and to make recommendations concerning all BIA-funded schools and local community school boards; and

3. The Diné Bi Olta School Board Association shall take all actions necessary to provide opportunities for local community school boards to share educational problems of mutual concern and to assist them in developing solutions to these problems; to review progress of education on the Navajo Nation, and make proposals, which in the opinion of the Association would improve the education in the Navajo Nation; and

4. The Diné Bi Olta School Board Association has reviewed the findings of the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) regarding the increasingly high rate of diabetes, obesity, the related complications and its continued negative effects on the elderly, youth and school-age children; and

5. According to Navajo Area Indian Health Service there are 25,000 Navajos with diabetes and another 75,000 are pre-diabetic, with at an average, it costs over $13,000 per person annually to treat diabetes. The cost for treating diabetes related complications can exceed $100,000; and

6. In the past two decades, the prevalence of overweight and obesity increased dramatically among our Navajo adults and children. In 2009 the obesity rate within the eight service units of the Navajo Area Indian Health Service range from 23% to 60% and the overweight rate ranged from 17% to 39% for all age groups; and
7. It is the best interest of the Navajo local school boards to issue the Diné Bi Olta School Board Association (DBOSBA)'s support for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA)' “Healthy Diné Nation Act Of 2013” as the growing rate of diabetes and related complication are critical to the wellness of Navajo students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

1. The Diné Bi Olta School Board Association, Inc. hereby approves the Diné Bi Olta School Board Association (DBOSBA)'s Support for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA)' “Healthy Diné Nation Act Of 2013”; and its efforts to adopt the “Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013” whose meaning is as follows:

a. No tax will be imposed on fresh vegetables, fruits, and water as an amendment to the current Navajo sales tax law; and,

b. As a new type of tax, an increase of a 2% tax on sugar-sweetened beverages to include soda pop, energy drinks, fruit drinks, fruit punch, sweetened teas, sports drinks, etc. and junk food to include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, etc., will reduce purchasing and consumption, thereby reducing the risk for overweight and obesity, diabetes and the associated health complications; and

c. The revenue generated from the new 2% tax will be earmarked for communities to plan for community originated and owned wellness initiatives such as wellness equipment, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, farmer markets, family picnic grounds, and health education classes; and

2. The Diné Bi Olta School Board Association, Inc. hereby requests the Navajo Nation Council and its Committee on Health, Education and Human Services to approve the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA)'s Resolution: the “Healthy Diné Nation Act Of 2013”.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Diné Bi Olta School Board Association, Inc. (DBOSBA) at a duly called Special Meeting at which a quorum was present and that the same was adopted by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining, on this 7th day of October, 2013.

Fernie Yazzie, President
THE DINÉ BI OLTA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Motion: Genevieve Jackson
Second: Pauleen Billie
March 11, 2013

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food sold across the Navajo Reservation.

The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has provided an environment on the Navajo Nation that has led to decreased health and well being among the Navajo People, and an increase in overweight and obesity. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers to make the appropriate choices as necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NDCD) that provides funding to the 110 Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be made available to be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities like the following: 1) Walking, Running, Biking Trails, 2) Playgrounds, 3) Sports Courts & Fields (e.g. Basketball, Softball, etc.), 4) Physical Activity Classes & Fitness Facilities, 5) Gardening.

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees that act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership.

Respectfully,

Keno Zahney  
Community Member  
RCFW Member

We are committed to strengthening families and nurturing positive changes in our communities.

Restoring & Celebrating Family Wellness Committee: Northern Navajo Chapters & Community Volunteers, CHS-OUTREACH, Health Promotion/Disease Prevention, Department of Behavioral Health Services; Diné Bahdziin Coalition, Office of Youth Development/Shiprock Boys & Girls Club, San Juan County Partnership, Shiprock Branch Library, Teen Life Center, Social Services Family Violence Prevention Program, Public Health Nursing, Shiprock Law Enforcement & Criminal Investigations, Navajo Health Education/IVC Prevention Program, Family Roots & Wings, Shiprock Navajo Peacekeeping, Navajo Department of Workforce Development, Healing Circle Drop-In Center, and Northern Diné Youth Committee.
March 12, 2013

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council, to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Reservation. Due to the high consumption of these items in convenience stores, grocery stores and trading posts, the revenues generated in the form of sales tax will be utilized for the consumers on the Navajo Nation.

The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has provided an environment on the Navajo Nation has led to a decreased health and well being among the Navajo People. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers make the appropriate choices as necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NDCD) that provides funding to the one hundred ten (110) Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be made available to be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities including the following: 1) Playgrounds, 2) Wellness Trails, 3) Fitness Centers, 4) Gardening, 5) Bike Trails/Hiking Trails.

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees that act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Healing Circle Drop In Center
Shirley Montoya, Coordinator
March 12, 2013

Becenti Chapter
Land Use Planning Committee
P.O. Box 708
Crownpoint, New Mexico 87313

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support and/or endorsement for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grassroots community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation. The advocacy group is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar-sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Indian Reservation.

Due to the high consumption of these items in convenience stores, grocery stores and trading posts, revenues generated in the form of sales tax will be utilized by the consumers of the Navajo Nation.

The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food has provided an environment on the Navajo Nation that has led to decreased health and well-being among the Navajo People. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers to make the appropriate choices necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NDCD) that provides funding to the one hundred ten (110) Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be made available to be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities to include the following:

1. Wellness Centers
2. Basketball Courts/Processing/Storage Facilities
3. Walking/Running/Biking Trails
4. Intergenerational & Traditional Wellness Classes
5. Family/Community Picnic Grounds
6. Traditional Food Cooking Classes
7. Navajo Cooperatives w/ Food
8. Traditional Food Education
9. Community Gardens
10. Community Parks/Playgrounds
11. Farmers Markets

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees that act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to call Diné Community Advocacy Alliance member at 928 729-2536. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Perry, President
Community Land Use Planning Committee
March 12, 2013

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support/endorsement for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council, to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Reservation. Due to the high consumption of these items in convenience stores, grocery stores and trading posts, the revenues generated in the form of sales tax will be utilized for the consumers on the Navajo Nation.

The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has provided an environment on the Navajo Nation has led to a decreased health and well being among the Navajo People. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers make the appropriate choices as necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NDCCD) that provides funding to the one hundred ten (110) Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be made available to be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities including the following: 1) Playgrounds, 2) Wellness Trails, 3) Fitness Centers, 4) Gardening, 5) Bike Trails/Hiking Trails.

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees that act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership.

Sincerely,

Pyn Francisco-Hosteen, Sisters In Circle Member
Community Member

TO MEET IN "CIRCLE" AS SISTERS/WOMEN TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND CELEBRATE OUR UNIQUE GIFTS, TALENTS, AND EXPERIENCES
Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support/endorsement for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council, to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Indian Reservation. If a person drinks one 12-ounce can of a sugared drink each day in excess of their body's balance of calories in and calories out, the person will gain fifteen pounds in a year. And most people drink more than 12-ounces when they are drinking a sugared drink. Since extra body weight is associated with diabetes and heart disease, any reduction in the drinking of this source of calories by Navajo people will improve public health. I believe a tax to make sugar drinks more expensive than no calorie drinks would encourage people to consume less sugar drinks and improve Navajo public health.

I work with the eighty Navajo participants who have given their time over the last sixteen years to participate in the Diabetes Prevention Program and Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study. Within this research study, we found that at entry into the study, American Indian participants were eating about 37.5% of their calories from fat each day (the federal recommendation is to eat less than 30% of calories from fat). Junk foods are usually high in fat and some of the calories from fat that our study participants were eating came from junk food. By learning what foods are high in fat, our study participants were able to modify their fat eating and one year after entering the study, women were eating less than 34% of their calories from fat and men were eating less than 30% of their calories from fat. Modifications to lower the fat study participants were eating resulted in weight loss and the Diabetes Prevention Program found that a lifestyle balance program of weight loss and increased activity decreased a person's risk of diabetes by 58%. It would be a great use of the funds generated by a sales tax on junk food to support lifestyle balance programs across the Navajo Nation, to support individuals to lose weight and decrease their risk of diabetes.

I have attached a 'ReThink Your Drink' handout that gives you more information on how much sugar is in popular drinks. I urge you to support the proposed sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our office/me at

Respectfully,

Carol Percy, RN, MS

Diabetes Prevention Program Coordinator

505-368-6345

carol.percy@ihs.gov
March 18, 2013

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

It is the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health’s pleasure to write a letter of support for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance. The Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health’s mission is to work in partnership with the American Indian and Alaska Native communities to raise health status, self-sufficiency and health leadership to the highest possible level. We currently support efforts to increase the availability of healthy foods, educate young and old about healthy traditional foods and decrease the burden of Type 2 Diabetes around the Navajo Nation. We are glad to support the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance in their similar efforts.

It is believed that high consumption of sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has greatly contributed to the spread of obesity and diabetes across the United States including the Navajo Nation, and therefore, we support all efforts to decrease the amount of these items sold and consumed on the Navajo Nation. We also support efforts that promote healthy lifestyles and encourage physical activity.

Decreasing that amount of unhealthy foods consumed and increasing the amount of daily physical activity will take individual, community, and system wide change and we work to support individual, organizational, and policy efforts to enact these changes. The funding from the tax on can improve the farming infrastructure across Navajo Nation to improve the availability and affordability of fruits and vegetables among tribal communities to change the choices of food purchased. In addition, health programs and wellness programs can be established on the needs of large and small communities of the Navajo Nation such as wellness centers, physical activities at Chapters houses for community members, and building the infrastructure of safe playgrounds and parks for families to be more active that are maintained. We believe these are all possible and viable changes that could impact the health and well-being of people across the Navajo Nation and it is imperative that efforts to implement these changes are supported for the future children of Navajo Nation.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call our office line at (505) 368-4038/4030.

Respectfully,

Genevieve Tsosie, MPH
Center for American Indian Health
Bloomberg School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins University
March 26, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

The Health Education Center for Wellness provides education on healthy lifestyles to over 5,000 patients with diabetes and their families. In addition, we offer education on ways to prevent diabetes and obesity. We have classes also on high cholesterol, weight loss, high blood pressure and heart failure. In sum, we provide a wide range of counseling on healthy lifestyles behaviors.

As a result, we are extremely supportive of the proposed Navajo Nation legislation on the taxation of soda pop. These extra funds will enable our communities to focus on increasing available recreational facilities such as playgrounds, soccer fields, walking trails and other places for both kids and adults to get in their physical activity.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important and forward-thinking legislation. If passed, the Navajo Nation would certainly be a model for the rest of the nation in leading the way on improving healthy behaviors at a population level.

Sincerely,

Kimberly S. Mohs, M.D.
Director, Health Education Center for Wellness
Chair, Internal Medicine

Mission Statement
With knowledge comes wellness

Vision Statement
Helping individuals and families through education and support
 McKinley Community Health Alliance  
PO Box 1726  
Gallup, NM 87305

"It is the mission of the McKinley Community Health Alliance to affect change in systems (i.e. health care, schools, business, government, etc.) that perpetuate health, education, economic, and environmental disparities by engaging individuals and agencies to understand and address the underlying "root" causes of poverty/income inequity, institutional racism, and multi-generational trauma."

April 15, 2013

Navajo Nation Council  
PO Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ  86515

RE: Support Letter

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

The McKinley Community Health Alliance is writing in support of the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grass root community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council, to enact legislation and policy to impose sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Indian Reservation.

The McKinley Community Health Alliance serves as the comprehensive community health council for the McKinley area. The Health Alliance is keenly aware of the need for more funding and resources across the communities on the Navajo Reservation to improve the health of the Dine People by developing the conditions necessary to combat the epidemic of obesity, diabetes and other health related outcomes.

Thereby, the continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has provided an environment on the Navajo Nation that has led to a decreased health and well being among the Dine People. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Dine People as consumers to make the appropriate choices as necessary to live a long healthy life as they have in the past.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call our office at (505) 863-5107.

Respectfully,

Ophelia Reeder  
On Behalf of the McKinley Community Health Alliance
October 9, 2013

The Honorable Johnny Naize, Speaker
The 22nd Navajo Nation Council
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Dear Honorable Council Delegates of the Twenty Second Navajo Nation Council:

This is a letter of support/endorsement for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA), a grassroots community advocacy group on the Navajo Nation, which is advocating to the Navajo Nation Council, to (1) amend the current Navajo Nation sales tax to eliminate sales tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, seeds, nuts, and water to encourage the purchase and consumption of nutritious foods and drink; and (2) enact a new legislation and policy called "The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013" that would impose a new type of sales tax on soda, sugar sweetened beverages, and junk food that is being sold across the Navajo Indian Reservation. Due to the high consumption of non-nutritious items in convenience stores, grocery stores and trading posts, the consumers of the Navajo Nation will utilize revenues generated in the form of sales tax for local wellness activities.

The places where we work, live and play – environments – are the greatest contributor to health and wellness status; greater than genetics or personal choices (which are dependent upon our environments). The continued high availability and huge consumption of soda, sugar sweetened beverages and junk food has created an environment on the Navajo Nation leading to a decreased health and well being among the Navajo People. It has become imperative that policy, laws and legislation be enacted to bring forth education, awareness and enforcement to allow the Navajo People as consumers to make choices as necessary to live a long life of health and wellness.

The revenue generated from the sales tax will be returned to the Navajo People through the Navajo Division of Community Development (NDCD) that provides funding to the one hundred ten (110) Navajo Nation Chapters throughout the Navajo Nation. The funds will be utilized by the community people to fund projects for wellness activities as listed in the "The Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013."

The funds will also benefit the Farm Boards, Farm Committees and the Community Land Use Planning Committees which act as a focal point at the community level for planning, project development and securing land for projects that benefit its membership.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call us at 505-980-5355.

Respectfully,

Erin Marshall
Managing Director

Liz Chavez
Co-Chair Board of Directors, 2013-14
November 6, 2013

Councilman Johnny Naize
Council Speaker of the Navajo Nation
Navajo Nation Council, Office of the Speaker
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Speaker Naize:

First Nations Development Institute (First Nations), a Native American-controlled and operated nonprofit organization headquartered in Longmont, Colorado, respectfully submits this letter of support for Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) and its legislative effort to eliminate taxes on fresh fruits, vegetables and water sold on the Navajo Nation, as well as its legislative effort to pass a 2 percent tax on sugary beverages and junk foods. These groundbreaking efforts are the first of their kind in Indian Country and demonstrate grassroots community commitment and solutions to reduce obesity, diabetes and other negative health consequences that result from high sugar/high fat diets in the Navajo Nation.

For more than 33 years, First Nations has worked with Native tribes and community organizations across the United States to help them control their community/tribal assets and build programs to improve family economic security. We believe that when armed with both financial and technical resources, Native communities have the ability and ingenuity to direct their own economic and political futures.

Related to this is our work in helping Native nations in the area of food-system control. Realizing that the destruction of Native food systems is strongly related to the loss of land and culture, as well as increased rates of diabetes, obesity and other negative health outcomes, First Nations believes that Native food systems are an important asset for Native communities. Thus, efforts like those of DCAA must be supported, as they take strong, decisive steps toward food sovereignty and regaining control of how food items in Native communities are accessed, dispersed and consumed in an effort to improve the lives and well-being of Native people.

First Nations respectfully and wholeheartedly requests that the Navajo Nation Council consider passing the proposed legislative initiatives of DCAA. If enacted, both pieces of legislation will lift the Navajo Nation up as a model for other
Native nations to emulate when discussing how policy can be an effective tool toward Native food-system control.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (303) 774-7836, or at mroberts@firstnations.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Michael E. Roberts (Tlingit)
President
July 09, 2013

To: Navajo Nation Council

Hello. My name is Christielle Amber Beke. I will be a senior at Compass Point High School, and I am currently ranked number one in my class with a GPA above a 4.0.

I really support and agree with the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance. I believe the 2.1 tax will really change our Navajo Nation. It will create a healthier nation. I support it because there unhealthy foods are the cause of diabetes and other health concerns. Everyday a child is more at risk with the intake of junk food and drinks that contain way too much sugar. Our body was not made to take in 29 cubes of sugar. It is not healthy at all. We have young children and toddlers who eat these.

A long time ago our elders would grow their own food and they lived long lives. They would be healthy and not have to worry about certain diseases. Now we are eating junk food and drinks containing too much sugar. It really isn't even considered food when basically it's all just a bunch of chemicals. Some of the chemicals in it are banned in other countries.

Our Navajo people were once a healthy
nation full of proud people. Now we are meanted by diabetes, obesity and many other problems. There is one cause. That is the fact that we consume so much junk food and sugary drinks. This new tax will help both ways. It will decrease the number of purchase which will create healthier people. The people who still purchase it will have the tax they pay be given to the chapters and Navajo people.

Thank you for giving me the time you have. Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Christelle Bah

Crownpoint, Utah
P.O. Box 2054 87313
Hello, my name is Shanelle C. Jusley. I am from Crownpoint, NM. I am 19 years old. I come from a family that has diabetes and why I think the test should go up is that I do not want others to have to suffer like my family because it can put stress and anger in their own and their family members.

I am a daughter/sister of a diabetic. It can put a lot of stress and anger upon you and your loved ones. It is sad to watch your loved ones go through that horrible disease.

My father has Type 2 diabetes. He found out he was 19 years old. Now he has to go for dialysis treatment 3 times a week. It put me at risk because I have the gene to have diabetes. And diabetes can cause kidney failure. So please help our Navajo People to push this disease off our Reservation.

Thank you.
To Navajo Nation Council,

July 19, 2013

Hello, My name is Kyla Yazzie. I am currently 16 years old and going to be a senior at Ohkay High School. I am originally from Camino Real, New Mexico. I had just been informed that the 2012-2013 fiscal year has seen a decrease in the government revenues.

One of the issues that I am concerned about is the health of Navajo Nation. Obesity is a big factor that is contributing to the poor health of the Nation. I believe that there is a need to focus on healthier food and exercise. It would be a good idea to use revenues to create more and more opportunities for the younger generation.

I think the obesity of sugar is a huge problem and one that needs to be addressed. I believe everyone deserves to live a long healthy life and not one that is filled with health problems such as diabetes. And I think that this would be a positive change among the Navajo Nation and especially to the younger people.
To: Navajo Nation Council

Hello my name is Tana D Morgan. I am originally from a reservation. I am a black woman. My age is 44. All my children are black. Some of us are poor people and some are middle class. I would like for the tribe at your food sugars to look at the sugar because it is scared and people have a lot of diabetes and have high blood pressure and it is also dangerous.
Hi! My name is Jenevieve Cook. My clans are Salt people, Bundle water edge, and I see the house. I think this is a great idea because people who are diabetic need to learn how to not eat that much junk food. The Navajo people need to exercise more than just staying indoors.

Date: July 9, 2013
Sincerely, Jenevieve Cook
Crownpoint, NM 87313
P.O. Box 302

July 9, 2013
From Crownpoint

To 2nd Legislative Council (Navajo Nation Council)

It doesn't matter what happens about the price just as long as the diabetes on the Navajo Nation will go down, and the little children under 10 years old diabetes rate will decrease.

(Thank you for your time to read this letter.)

Sincerely, Kaylynn Littleman
Dear Nature Center Council
7/19/13
My personal opinion on this issue is that it is a good idea. As long as you create something beneficial for the community, in an example, it would be awesome if Crescent Lake were to have a Recreation Youth Center because then a build-out rate is necessary about the saving rate of density within the community. I am just wishing that the many proposed ideas that would help.

Sincerely,
[Signature]
July 7, 2013

Hello, Mr Navajo Council. I am Everett Begay. I'm from Crownpoint, NM, and I am 17 years old. I support the whole thing about raising the taxes of sugary products by two cents. I support it because the Navajos really need it. Most are overweight, have diabetes or obesity. It will help be good. I am none of the things I said above. And I don't buy junk food and such. So thank you.

Everett Begay
P.O. Box 266, 87313, Crownpoint, NM
July 1, 2013

Hello, my name is Alegenha. I think it is a good idea to make energy drinks cost more than what they do now. My friend was in the hospital for two days because of that drink. Also, for soda, my brother always drinks soda. I try telling him to stop drinking soda and energy drinks but when he comes home he always has one in his hand. So please do what you need to. Thank you for your time.

Alegenha Robertson
P.O. Box 210
Cruce, NM 87313

July 9, 2013

To Navajo Nation Council:

Whether you put the tax price up and increased it will be good so the population of diabetes would go down and we will have more healthier people in this community and supporters.

- Raelynn Enrico
Hello Navajo Nation Council. I would like to say I support the 2 cent raise on sugary drinks and junk food. I support this to cut costs because I think it would cut back on people from eating and drinking the bad thing for our body. I would like to support it because I see too many of our people overweight and too lazy to do anything. My name is Bennie C. Begay from Crownpoint, New Mexico.

DATE: July 01, 2013
NAME: Bennie C. Begay
Address: PO Box 1502
Crownpoint, NM 87313
Dear Navajo Nation Council,

All I wanna say is that we should make a raise on our taxes for sweetened beverages and junk food. So that we Navajo can stop Diabetes and Obesity. My name is Dawson Davis, I'm from Crownpoint, NM. I'm 15 years old.

Date: July 9, 2013

Dawson Davis
P.O. Box 1867
Crownpoint, NM 87313
May 3, 2013

Niya Robertson
P.O Box 509
Prewitt, NM

Navajo Nation Council
P.O box 3390
Window rock, AZ 86575

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Niya Robertson; I’m in the 6th grade at Baca / Dlo’ayazhi Community School in Prewitt, New Mexico.

Ya’at’een’, Shiee Niya Robertson Yinishy’a Chishi niish li’ go, Billig’ana’ ba’ shish chiin, Kinyaa’Dasichei’ tetz sow ei’ da’ shi’ nali’

I'm writing this because I want something fun to look forward this summer. At Baca Chapter, we should have a fantasy factory like Rob Dyrek’s, where there’s a lot of Skating around.

It would be really nice, because people used to be really active but, ever since electronics came out, everyone started going downhill. People are getting fat, not spending much time with their family, and always on electronics! I’m always sad but, I’d appreciate if you would build a skating rink or park. So, People would lose weight, and hang out with their friends in the summer. So, please do this, it would be really........AWESOME!!!

Thank you for reading my letter to help my relatives. 😊

Sincerely, Niya Robertson

Received
MAY 17 2013
P.O. Council Delegate Chie
May 6, 2013

Marlena Yazzie
P.O. Box 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council:
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Marlena Yazzie; I am in 6th grade at Baca Dlo 'ay azhi Community School in Prewitt, New Mexico.

Ya'at'eeh! Shi ei' Marlena Yazzie yinish'ye Ta'nees zahnii niish li go tobaazhni'azhi ba' shish.chin.

I represent the Thoreau Chapter and I would most like to have a recreation center because everybody will be active and there will be very much less obesity and diabetes. I would very much like to have kids active. Kids right now are getting big and are less active. Also, the popular thing right now is electronics and people are getting lazy and just on the internet which is not being active.

I best think that we should be certain and just build it for our community. So kids don’t have to be bored during the summer or after school. This recreation center would be for all ages. They should play outside instead of playing video games and watching television.

I think the best convenient is to help us build a recreation center and be fit and healthy. Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Marlena Yazzie
May 6, 2013

Marjorie S. Newman
PO Box 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council
PO Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

Mr. Leonard Tsosie visited our school last week. We were very impressed with what he had to say about the duties of the Council Delegates. He encouraged us to write letters to you to voice our concerns for the communities that Baca/Dlo’ay azhi Community School serves.

Our class decided that we should voice some of the concerns that would help improve our home communities. The letters were written by the students to help you remember that they are the future caretakers of our land.

Your time and consideration in reading each letter will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marjorie S. Newman
6th Grade Teacher, Baca/Dlo’ay azhi Community Sch.
May 3, 2013

Kristiana Lee.
Po box 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council
Po box 3390
Window Rock, AZ. 86515

Dear Council Delegates;

My name is Kristiana, I am in 6th grade at Baca Dló`ay Azhi, Community School in Prewitt, NM.

Y a `at’ e eh! Shi ei’ kristiana Yin l s h.’ye Todich’ iini niish li go. Dzílítl’ ba ‘shish-Chiin.

I wanted to ask the Council Delegates if we can have a recreation center park with a fantasy factory. A fantasy factor is a big skate park with lots of ramps; we also want a fitness center so we won’t be obesity and lose our figures.

Our parents are sometimes tired and won’t take us to the nearest one like in Gallup. They won’t have to go far and use gas just for that. We would appreciate your guidance and financial help through this progress.

Sincerely,

Kristiana Lee.

Kristiana Lee.
May 6, 2013

Navajo Nation Council  
P.O. BOX 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Ralim W.  
P.O. BOX 509  
Prewitt, NM 87045

Dear Council Delegates:

I am a sixth grader at Prewitt Baça/Dlo’ ay azhi community school. Most people in Thoreau like to skateboard. I like to skateboard. Could Thoreau have a new skate park, a bigger skate park? A lot of people don’t get outside a lot during the summer. People could get together more often, get along, and spend more time meeting new other people. Our community could become a better place for everyone to enjoy! The skate park can be for everyone, for free, forever. A lot of people would love a new skate park in Thoreau. Thank you for listening!

Sincerely,  

Ralim Westmoreland

[Stamp: Received: MAY 17 2013]
Cameron Martinez  
PO Box 509  
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council  
PO Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

Hi there. My name is Cameron Martinez and I am in the 6th grade at Baca Community School. I think that people would like to have a Horseback Riding Trail Center for kids and adults in Thoreau, New Mexico. I know some people would like it. This would help our people and our community because some people can do more things that are valuable in their life by doing stuff that makes them happy and wanting to get outdoors.

Notice nature is out there. Go explore it, learn it, and help it! Ever since electronics been invented, people have been staying indoors and gaining weight. Those kids/adults can turn diabetic or can turn over-weight. It can also lead them to some kind of disease or even cancer!

The most and main reason I want this is so people can be entertained by the horses, the trail, and the nature. Enjoy the nature that is brought to you!

Sincerely,

Cameron Martinez  
Cameron Martinez
May 6, 2013

Marissa Galvan
P.o.box 509
Frewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council
P.O Box 3390

Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Marissa Galvan. I am in sixth grade at Baca/ Dlo’ ay azhi Community School.

My Community needs to have a track in Thoreau for people to run on. People who want to run have to run on the road or the sidewalk which is not safe because on the sidewalk, some people just want to relax. They don’t want runners on the sidewalk sometimes. On the trail there can be a time when runners can leave and people who have dirt bikes and bikes can ride there.

We want a track because some people can practice, relax, take off stress, and to stay healthy. Right now, there is no place to exercise and come together in Thoreau.

Sincerely,

Marissa Galvan

[Stamp: Received MAY 17 2013]
Kevin Werito
P.O. BOX 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council
P.O. box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Kevin Werito. I'm in six grade at Baca/Dlo' ay azhi community school in Prewitt, New Mexico. My class was deciding that we should have a recreation park. I think we should have a soccer field. A soccer field can get us moving and get us healthy. This would be good for our community.

If we had a soccer field. We could have games night and day. We could put lights around the field. Everyone could see what a wonderful sport it is. I say this because I play on the school soccer team. All ages could play and learn the sport. Little kids can learn how to become an experience soccer player when they grow up.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely, Kevin Werito

May 6, 2013
May 6, 2013

Marcus Largo
Po box 509
Prewitt, NM 27045

Navajo Nation Council
Po box 3390
Window rock, AZ, 86515

Dear Council Delegates:
My name Marcus Largo, I am in 6th grade at Baca/dlo’ah azhi Community school in Prewitt, New Mexico

Dear council I think we should make a sport center at Baca chapter house in Prewitt, so we can have fun with friends. And we can play baseball, football and a tracking field and there can be different spot like work out spot and there can be an art work and crafts. And kids can go there after school.

Sincerely

Marcum Largo
May 3, 2013

Lashawna Brown
Po Box 509
Prewitt, NM

Navajo Nation Council
Po box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Lashawna Brown I'm in 6th grade at Baca/Dlo' ayazhi Community school in Prewitt, New Mexico.

Ya' at 'eeh, shi ei Lashawna Brown yinishya!Ashihi niish li' go, deeshiinii ba'shish chilin bila gania da shi chei', Iio go' ei'da shi nall'

I'm writing this letter because we need a fitness center for our community in Thoreau so people won't be lazy and eating junk food. So, we need a Playground for kids to play on and a track so Adults and Children can walk or run on.

I strongly recommend that my Community wants a fitness center for Thoreau, New Mexico. People used to be really active but, Electronics came out and everyone started getting fat and always wanting to play on Electronics!!! I think people should get out there and Exercise and lose weight NOW!!! So, please do this and make me happy. 😊

Thank you for reading my Letter 😊

Sincerely,

LaShawna Brown

Received
MAY 17 2013
OIS-Council Delegate Office

MAY 17 2013
OIS-Council Delegate Office
May 6, 2013

Haley Delgarito
P.O. Box 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Haley Delgarito. I am in 6th grade at Baca Dlo'ay azhi Community School in Prewitt, New Mexico.

Ya'at'eeh Shi ei' Haley Delgarito yinish'ye! Kinyaa' aanii niish li'go Ashiihi ba' shish chiin.

I think that we should have a recreational center for all ages. The reason why I want a recreational center is because in Prewitt we don't have a recreational center to play or hang out at. Plus the other recreational centers are in Grants and Gallup. It will also waste people's gas because they go far just to play. And also you can just hang out there and have fun. Then it can help you get some exercise. Finally the most important thing is that it can help people stay out of bad things and keep them busy.

It's good for our community because people can hang out and just have fun. You can always have something to do rather than staying home. And also it can keep you healthy and fit. Thank you for reading my opinion.

Sincerely,

Haley Delgarito
May 6, 2013

Sampson Sam
PO Box 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Delegates
PO Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Sampson Sam; I am a student at Baca/Dlo ‘ay azhi Community School. I am in the 6th grade at Prewitt, New Mexico.

Ya’at'eeh! Shii el Sampson Sam yinish’ye Taa Chini Ni Nish-li’go, To’dich’iinii Ba’shish chin.

I think we should have a recreational center to get fit, spend time with friends, and have fun with sports such as basketball, baseball, soccer, and football.

I also want everyone to be happy, meet new people, and to have people go outside and have fun.

The second reason to have a recreational center is that I want everybody to become healthy and live longer. This would stop people from getting obese, eating junk food, and start eating healthy snacks. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Sampson Sam

Sampson Sam
May 3, 2013

Cameron Sam
PO Box 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council
PO Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Cameron Sam; I am in the sixth grade at Baca/Dlo'ay azhi Community School in Prewitt, New Mexico. Ya'at'eeh shei Cameron Sam yilnishye naaki tada a' shi'na haii. Ashi ihi nish li' go, Naasht' ezhi Dine.

I think it gets boring during the summer and we need a fitness center in Thoreau why? I'll tell you why. The kids aren't exercising; they are inside all day playing games. We need to change now! This is why I recommend a fitness center. Picture that, the kids would love this. I bet even the elders would like that too! We need it and we need it NOW. Our community is going the negative way which leads to abuse, drinking, drugs, stealing, and people getting diabetes. That is not good. The people need to go to the positive direction and the community will be better off. Please make the right choice to help our people.

Sincerely, Cameron Sam

Cameron Sam
May 3, 2013

Odessa Begay
Po Box 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council
P.O Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Odessa Begay; I am in the 6th grade at Baca/ Dlo’ayazhi Community School in Prewitt, New Mexico

Yah’ at eeh! Shi ei’ Odessa Begay yinish’ ye! Ashii Nish li ‘go, Holitsoi ba’shish chin.

I am writing this letter because we need a fitness center for our Community in Thoreau to play instead of sitting down-and watching TV in the house or on the bench by the playground on your electronics!

We want to strongly recommend that I want a sports gym and a playground for our time to get energy. There is no place to play or practice in Thoreau, New Mexico. But I would appreciate if you would build a play ground and a gym, so people would lose weight. So, they can hang out in the summer with their friends.

Thank you for reading my letter to help my relatives!!! 😊

Sincerely, Odessa Begay

Odessa Begay.
Renika Delgarito  
P.O. Box 509  
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Renika Delgarito, I am in the 6th at Baca/Dlo’ay azhi Community School in Prewitt, New Mexico.

Ya’at’eéh! Shi eii Renika Delgarito Yinish’ye’. Kinya’aanii li’ go, Halsooi ba’ shish chiin.

I think we should have a sport complex, fitness center one of those to do during the summer or after school. I think you should consider this because we kids need a place to hang out with friends and to get fit or play sports in the summer with friends. Kids are not being active during the summer. Kids are also bored during the summer and also after school. It will even help me because I get bored just been home doing nothing. So this recreation center would be for all ages. Don’t you want kids active during the summer instead of playing video games and watching T.V.

Kids will be active and have fun and not be bored at home during the summer or after school. When kids are over there at the recreation center and there will be less of the kids that drink and do drugs because people will be doing something active.

So I think we should get a recreation center for Baca chapter. Not just because are class does but for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Renika Delgarito
Elijah Charley  
Po Box 509  
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council  
Po box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

Ya’at’eeh shi’ei Elijah Charley yinshi’yé Tsin Sikaadnií  
niish li’go ba’sh’ish’chin I am in 6th grade at Baca/Dlo’ay  
azhi Community School in Prewitt, New Mexico.

I want to say that in Thoreau New Mexico, there is nothing to do in the summer or  
when school is out, (which is in a couple of days). In the summer there is nothing to do  
but stay home and play video games, and our parents get lazy and want to stay home.  
We have to go to places like Gallup and Grants and they charge $15 dollars per person  
at a community pool or park, but that’s 40 or 50 miles. But you could build a fitness  
center that has a sports complex that has a cross country trail, bike trails, and running  
trails. This would keep everyone in Thoreau, in shape and it would cut down on  
drinking and driving problems, plus people will cut down on junk food, and less  
persons will be diabetic.

If you could do this for the people of Thoreau, I will thank you and the people will use  
the fitness center I had asked for. ☺

Sincerely,  
Elijah Charley
May 6, 2013

Po Box 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council
Po Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Neo Pizano; I am a sixth grader at Baca/Dlo'azhi Community School in Prewitt, New Mexico.

It's boring during the summer, and we have nothing to do. So, can we have things to do with our friends and families and relatives? I would want a recreation park so all families and friends could have a place to work out. This would stop drugs and alcohol, use and people will not abuse their families.

And I would want a hospital and a police station. I would want that because if people are hurt they could come and help quick, instead of waiting for them.

But what I really want is a league so we can have fun like baseball, basketball, football, or soccer. You pick the sport you like.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely, Neo Pizano

Neo Pizano
May 3, 2013

Alvarrick Jake
PO BOX 509
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council
PO Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates,

My name is Alvarrick Jake, I am in 6th grade at Baca/Dlo’ázhí Community School
In Prewitt, New Mexico.

I was wondering if you could put up a fitness center GYM at Thoreau Chapter house.
So people won’t stay inside their homes all the time without getting fit.
They will just play games and not even walk around without getting in shape.
Our community needs it because there is nothing to do in the summer when school is out
It is bored without doing anything but lay around day.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alvarrick Jake
May 06, 2013

Taimane Tiimalu  
P.O Box 509  
Prewitt, NM 87045

Navajo Nation Council  
P.O Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Council Delegates:

My name is Taimane Tiimalu. I am in the 6th grade at Baca/Dlo’ay azhi Community School in Prewitt, New Mexico.

Ya’at’eeh! Shi ei Taimane Tiimalu yinish’ye. Haltsool niish l’go Samoan ba’lish biitiin.

Our community does not have a place for kids, like us, to hang out. Summers are boring because all you can do is eat and watch television. Parents rarely take kids out to parks either because it’s too hot or to save gas money.

I think kids should have a recreation center complete with a climbing wall, a gym, and so on. Kids could really benefit from this! Kids can come after school and summer wouldn’t be so boring.

We can give young teenagers a job for the summer and they could earn money. Admission rates will be as low $1.50 per person. You don’t have to worry about the money because many people may come which makes the money abundant for repairs or installments.
We can also put a refreshment center where people can grab a drink and chill. It doesn’t have to be for only kids, the recreation center could have a fitness center for the adults. Adults who are not fit/active can or may be encouraged to exercise with the “coaches” that work in the gym/fitness center part of the recreation center. Now parents can stop gambling.

People who drink and do drugs can have a hobby now and they can quit drugs. This will change their lives. That’s the only reason they drink because they do not have anything to do. Then the kids who have a passion for climbing and hiking can use the climbing wall as a substitute.

Baca chapter should have a recreation center. People will no longer be bored and summer would be the most fun season of the year! Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely, Taimane Tiunil

[Signature]
Navajo Prep Naat’áanii Youth Council
Statement of Support for the Healthy Diné Nation Act

A grandma at 90
She herds the sheep
She doesn’t need medication
And she’s alive in all of us

Her own family dinner table can unknowingly have multiple calories, sugars and fats.

According to statistics, Native Americans, Hispanics, African Americans, Asian Americans are more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes than Caucasians.

Anyone can get diabetes

Preventing Diabetes is up to you...

Our grandparents lived healthy life styles in order to live a long life.
An important part of eating healthy is not eating too much.
Instead of eating out, cook at home.
By doing daily chores you can stay physically active and fit
Instead of eating greasy food eat vegetables and fruit

Stick to a scheduled eating time and drink water instead of soda
Balance food and physical activity in order to live a healthy life
When you have a family member diagnosed with diabetes it is the most difficult time for any family to experience. It makes the family aware of what they eat and do.

“Over the summer my grandmother would yell at me to herd sheep and do chores. I thought that she was always angry with me, but all she wanted was for me to be healthy and active because she did not want her grandchild to get diabetes like she did”

Encourage and play with children to influence their physical activity.
Trying to make a change in your family can be difficult and slow.

EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE TO MAKE A CHANGE!!! It’s up to you. It’s up to us.

25 years ago there were NO Navajo kids with diabetes

10 years ago there were more than 100 Navajo kids with diabetes

Today, there are more than 200 Navajo kids with diabetes.

We realized that one of our friends or family members could get diabetes. We are “Yideeskáágóó Naat’áanii and we want to encourage you to be active and healthy.
April 09, 2014

Honorable 22nd Navajo Nation Council

As a New Mexico State Senator for the past 35 years my ultimate goal is to help every constituent to experience and have quality of life, therefore; I fully support the Healthy Dine’ Nation Act of 2013. The Act inhibits one of the most critical and deadly disease/diabetes that is causing debilitating lifestyles among the majority of our Navajo families.

I feel that the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) organization is on the right tract in raising awareness of Diabetes and its health complications, facing our Navajo people. They are also educating the public about healthy living, finding ways for communities to grow their own food and promote community wellness projects. The efforts of the advocacy group and their supporters will come to fruition with the acknowledgement and support of the Navajo Nation.

The livelihood of the Navajo Nation resides in your leadership as a Council Delegate. The people chose you to be their representation and assist when challenges come to the Nation. Therefore, you need to review the evidence presented with an unbiased influence. The IHS data demonstrates that two thirds of the Navajos living on the reservation are either inflicted with diabetes or pre-diabetes. This is staggering evidence that deserves attention and you as leaders need to override the veto to combat this crippling disease.

The DCAA organization has garnered support from advocacy organizations across the United States. Organizations such as American Heart Association, Kellogg Foundation, First Nations and Notah Begay III are on board and whole heartedly express a willingness to help.

Our fore fathers faced the same challenges at Hweildi. There, western civilization fed them foods that instilled unhealthy living. Sugar, enriched flour, process foods, etc. were systematically distributed which resulted in unhealthy diets leading to this epidemic. Then and now, our leaders knew that we had to return to our homelands and traditional practices of growing healthy foods. Please do not allow the
same to occur. Use your authority to tell the outside corporations that we are here to stay and we are going to advocate a healthy nutritious life style so that we continue to flourish as Dine.

Senator John Pinto
Alvina Begay

April 9, 2014

The Honorable Navajo Nation Council Delegates

Dear Delegates:

Greetings. My name is Alvina Begay. I am the Ta’neeszhnii – Tangle Clan Born for, Tsenjikini – Honey Combed Rock People or the Cliff Dwellers People Clan. My maternal grandfather’s clan is, Tabaaha – Water’s Edge Clan. My paternal grandfather’s clan is, Honagaahni – One-Walks-Around Clan. I am also a professional runner, an Athlete Ambassador for the Nike N7 Fund and I am a registered dietitian. I want to thank you for the leadership you provide to the Navajo Nation. I am writing to respectfully request that you vote “yes” for the Healthy Dine’ Nation Act’s Override Veto at this coming Spring Session of the Navajo Nation Council. The two tax legislations will encourage our Navajo people to make better choices of quality foods and to really have them think of how “junk food” is causing so many illnesses for our people.

As a registered dietitian and health provider, I help to serve our Navajo people every day and I treat our people. More Navajo children are overweight for their age than non-Indian children. I work in a hospital in Flagstaff and more and more Navajo people are being admitted for type 2 diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases. These are diseases that can be cured with exercise and a healthy diet.

Our Navajo people have gone away from eating a traditional plant based, nutrient dense diet to eating foods that are calorie dense and low in nutrients (e.g., processed foods, soda, chips, junk food). This has resulted in unhealthy weight gain and an increase in illnesses and disease. The immune systems of our Navajo people are weak because we are not eating healthy foods that are high in vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants. The diets that our people are consuming are setting up our children and families for a lifetime of chronic diseases, pain, poor quality of life and even an early death.

I personally get frustrated and discouraged when Navajo hospital patients do not understand or make an effort to change their eating and lifestyle habits. I have patients who come into the hospital with high blood sugar value and think that they will be fine and healthy with medication. More and more diabetics are receiving dialysis because of kidney failure. The kidney failure is usually a result of poor blood sugar control.

Our Navajo ancestors have fought for hundreds of years for our survival. Will type 2 diabetes be our demise?

Based on the health trends we are seeing with obesity and diabetes, this may be the first generation of Navajo children who will not outlive their parents. We need to act now! We can prevent this! You as our Navajo Nation delegates and leadership, have the opportunity to help change the course of the future health of children and people by taking this first step of passing.
this important legislation. We would be the first in the United States to take this important step and I believe it will be the catalyst for many more strategic efforts led by our Navajo people to improve the health and lives of children and families.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to speak out and use my voice as a Navajo woman, a registered dietitian, professional runner and Nike Ambassador to help my people. Thank you for making the best decisions for the health of our children and Navajo people.

Respectfully,

Alvina Begay
Citizen of the Navajo Nation
April 9, 2014

The Honorable Navajo Nation Council Delegates

Dear Delegates:

Thank you for the service you provide to the Navajo Nation, your district, and the Navajo people. I am writing to humbly ask for your support for an issue that I believe is very important to the health of the Navajo people, particularly our children, and that is the proposed changes to the Navajo tax code that would lower taxes on healthy foods and drinks and increase taxes on unhealthy foods and drinks.

This issue is near and dear to my heart. Sports have provided me opportunities that I never could have dreamed of as a boy. I loved to play basketball, soccer, and golf, and I am fortunate to have made a career working in sports. After ending my career as a full-time professional golfer on the PGA Tour, I now work as a television broadcaster for the Golf Channel and NBC. My passion for sports also has provided me access to education and opportunities and insight in working with Navajo youth and Indians from other tribes.

Working with my Dad, Notah Sr., and my Brother Clint, I founded the Notah Begay III Foundation to address the escalating problem of type 2 diabetes and its leading cause, childhood obesity. Our goal is to produce measurable, long-term change in the health of tribal communities. We have worked with the Navajo young people every year, emphasizing not only advancement in sports, but the need for healthy eating for better sports and life performance. One of the lessons we have learned as a Foundation is that nutritious eating is even more important than regular exercise when it comes to fighting diabetes and obesity. Exercise is very important, but avoiding junk food is critical!

That’s why I was elated to learn of the Council’s passage of the Healthy Dine’ Nation Act back in late January. This would be an important, even historic, step forward in the fight against diabetes and obesity. You can imagine my concern to learn of President Shelly’s veto of this important legislative initiative.

Today I am writing to respectfully urge you to vote to override the veto and enact the Healthy Dine’ Nation Act. I sincerely believe the ultimate health of our Navajo children, teens and young adults are at stake. And as with their health, their very future — and ours as a people — is very much at stake.

By initially passing the legislation, The Council demonstrated that you understand and care about the health and well-being of the Navajo Nation and want to see an end to the suffering and expense brought about by diet-related illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity. By
advancing the tax bills, you showed that you understand the necessity of at least taking those critical first steps toward addressing the issue.

We have to start somewhere in tackling this problem. These legislative initiatives aren’t the complete answer, but they are definitely a really important beginning. We’ll need to continue to aggressively fight on this issue, but we have the chance now to do what is right and good. We have a solid place to start.

As the old saying goes, “When you have your health, you have everything. When you do not have your health, nothing else matters at all.” And if we as Navajos don’t have our health, then no amount of money or soft-drink profits can bring it back. Let’s not let corporate profits get in the way of our Nation’s improved well-being.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration. Please help get us back on the right track to better diet, health, and a brighter future for our children and generations yet to come.

Sincerely,

Notah Begay III
Citizen of the Navajo Nation
NEWS RELEASES

Organized Chronologically:

1. “Navajo Nation removes sales tax on healthy foods,” Al Jazeera America, April 25, 2014


3. “Navajo Nation Council being asked to override junk food tax veto; Second override would eliminate sales tax for fresh vegetables and fruit,” Daily Times – Four Corner News, March 23, 2014


6. “Council needs to overturns junk food tax veto” Navajo Times, Thursday, March 13, 2014


9. “Council Delegate Danny Simpson will request override of President Shelly’s veto of the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013 (Bill to eliminate sales tax on fresh fruits and fresh vegetables also vetoed)” 22nd Navajo Nation Council, Office of the Speaker, Press Release, February 13, 2014

10. “President Shelly vetoes junk food tax, cites regulatory concerns” Navajo Nation, Office of the President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim, Press Release, February 12, 2014

11. “Navajo Nation looking to enact ‘Junk Food Tax’” KOB Eyewitness News 4, February 4, 2014 @ 6:38 p.m.

12. “Navajo Nation passes tax on junk food” The Stream Team, February 4, 2014


16. “Navajo lawmakers increase sales tax on junk food,” KWES News West, January 31, 2014

17. “Navajo lawmakers to increase sales tax on junk food,” Associated Press, January 31, 2014

18. “Navajo lawmakers to increase sales tax on junk food,” Washington Times, January 31, 2014


24. “Navajo council to decide whether to remove speaker” Associated Press, January 29, 2014
25. “Navajo junk food tax can serve as positive example” Arizona Daily Wildcat, November 24, 2013
28. Google and Bing searches
Navajo Nation removes sales tax on healthy foods

After tribal leader vetoed junk food tax, tribe moves to cut tax on fresh produce to fight obesity and diabetes

April 25, 2014 2:15PM ET

by Massoud Hayoun (/profiles/h/massoud-hayoun.html)
- @mhayoun (http://www.twitter.com/mhayoun)

Navajo tribal leaders voted this week to remove sales taxes on food items such as fruit, vegetables and nuts in an attempt to promote healthier diets and fight rampant obesity and diabetes — but some native health activists say the biggest obstacle they face is a lack of access to fresh produce on or near the reservation.

“This is a wake-up call to the Navajo Nation: You are in charge of your health,” Jonathan Hale, the Navajo Nation Council delegate who introduced the measure, told Al Jazeera.

Still, advocates say the tribe has a long way to go to improve Navajos’ declining health.
"We live in a giant food desert," meaning a region that produces little of its own food, said Dana Eldridge, an independent researcher on sustainable community and decolonization. Her remark echoes findings by the United States Department of Agriculture (http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx#.U1qgLl4oe5w).

Eldridge said that while the council’s decision is "a real victory," it is also largely symbolic.

Fresh food will soon be marginally cheaper because of the tax cut — but it’s not readily available, Eldridge said.

“There’s a lack of access. What is available in gas stations and the few grocery stores [in the Navajo nation] is of poor quality — often molding vegetables," she said.

A Navajo organization called the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance, after visiting local markets and convenience stores estimated that 55 to 85 percent of food available in the Navajo Nation is “junk food.”

Most of the few restaurants in the Navajo nation’s capital, Window Rock, on the Arizona side of the reservation that also covers parts of New Mexico and Utah, are fast-food chains such as McDonald’s, Taco Bell and Denny’s. A complicated land-leasing system (https://www.google.com/url?q=http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/2/2/navajo-seek-tobuckbraindraintrend.html&sa=U&ei=Z55aU9X-NciNyASHqoFA&ved=0CAYQFjAA&client=internal-uds-cse&usg=AFQjCNE9uQ1hzCMsgyqBANeruUWBBrHslBg), overseen by the U.S. Department of the Interior, makes it difficult for entrepreneurs to obtain business spaces on the reservation — they must first receive the approval of all local tenants. Many aspiring Navajo restaurateurs are therefore relegated to roadside stalls (http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/2/2/navajo-seek-tobuckbraindraintrend.html), or have to buy or lease land in border towns off the reservation.

One in three Navajo will have diabetes at some point in their lives, Eldridge said, and type 2 diabetes is 2.3 times more common in the Navajo Nation than in the United States as a whole.
Eldridge, herself a fledgling farmer, says independent agriculture is the way to a healthier and sovereign Navajo Nation.

"Not too long ago, we were a people who knew how to feed ourselves. We grew our own food and had livestock. Through processes of American expansion and colonization, our food changed too. Now you see illnesses like diabetes," she said.

In February, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly vetoed similar tribal legislation that would have taxed junk food and put the proceeds into programs promoting "food sovereignty" — the concept of a community being self-sufficient in its food needs.

The Dine Community Advocacy Alliance helped draw up and push for the legislation to both tax junk food and to remove taxes from fresh foods.

The junk food tax would have helped fund the food sovereignty programs by levying a 2 percent tax on unhealthy foods and putting the resulting revenues into community gardens and farmers' markets, said Gloria Ann Begay, a leader of the community alliance.

Shelly vetoed the tax because tribal authorities estimated it would only generate $1.7 million to $2.5 million, to be spread over 110 chapters — leaving just thousands of dollars for each chapter.

The Navajo Nation president's office had not responded to an interview request from Al Jazeera at time of publication.

Begay cited the number of U.S. fast-food giants in Window Rock as one leading cause of crippling obesity and diabetes rates.

“We have all these outsiders making money, not only at the border towns of Navajo, but also in our little towns," she said. "We can make our own restaurants. Our own Navajo foods."
Navajo Nation Council doesn't enact junk food sales tax

Navajo lawmakers eliminate 5 percent sales tax on healthy foods

By Noel Lyn Smith The Daily Times

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ. — The cost of buying a bag of chips or a case of soda on the Navajo Nation will remain the same, but fresh produce will be a little cheaper.

Members of the Navajo Nation Council on Tuesday failed to override a presidential veto that would have enacted an additional 2 percent sales tax on junk food purchased on the reservation.

Legislation containing the override failed by a vote of 13 in favor and seven opposed. It needed at least 16 votes to pass during the spring session in the council chamber in Window Rock, Ariz.

The council did override the veto to eliminate the 5 percent sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, water, nuts, seeds and nut butters in a vote of 19 in favor and one opposed.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly vetoed both bills in February because, he said, the tribal government is not prepared to implement and collect taxes on junk food.

For three years, the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance has advocated for the proposals because

Navajo Nation Council doesn’t enact junk food sales tax - Farmington Daily Times

the group is concerned with the diabetes epidemic among Navajo people. According to the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, about 25,000 Navajos are diabetic and about 75,000 are pre-diabetic.

Deborah Cayedito, a member of the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance, said it was bittersweet to have one bill fail and the other pass.

"My heart fell. I felt very defeated," Cayedito said after the council voted on the junk food tax. "We also had the other legislation, which is elimination of purchases for healthy foods where you would not be taxed. That was passed, and that raised my heart back up."

Cayedito said the group will not quit its advocacy and will continue public education.

DelegateDanny Simpson, who sponsored both bills when the council passed them in January, said he plans to again sponsor similar legislation to implement the junk food tax. He said he would like the council to consider the bill during the summer session in July.

In a small gathering outside the chamber, Delegate Jonathan Nez told Diné Community Advocacy Alliance members that an alternative could be to place the taxation issue before the Navajo people as a referendum on the general election ballot in November.

"There will be discussions at the dinner tables, in shopping centers, everywhere," Nez said, adding that awareness of the issue will keep the initiative alive.

During the council session, proponents advocated for passage of the overrides during a 15-minute presentation to delegates. Delegate Jonathan Hale, who sponsored the pair of override bills, was joined by Diné Community Advocacy Alliance member Demisa Livingston and professional golfer Notah Begay III during the talk.

Livingston said the enactment of both measures is "critical" because it addresses the health crisis on the Navajo Nation.

"This legislation, its sole purpose is to do good," Livingston said, explaining it would provide the resources needed to build health facilities and promote health education.

Revenue from the junk food sales tax would have funded development of community wellness projects such as parks, fitness centers, basketball courts, trails, community gardens, picnic grounds and health education classes.

"You have the opportunity to set the standards for the rest of the world," she said. "Together, we can protect the health of our people."

Begay said his family, like many on the Navajo Nation, is affected by diabetes. Reducing that risk is one reason he said he supports the additional tax. Begay said his work requires him to travel to Native communities across the country, and he sees similar health issues in each community.

"I think this message goes much further than a simple tax. It will resonate and ripple through Indian Country saying that we finally have a government that is willing to take a stand on this issue," he said.

Noel Lyn Smith covers the Navajo Nation for The Daily Times. She can be reached at 505-564-4636 and namith@daily-times.com (mailto: namith@daily-times.com). Follow her on Twitter @nmsmithdt (http://twitter.com/nmsmithdt) on Twitter.
Farmington — Two proposed pieces of legislation are giving members of the Navajo Nation Council a chance to override a pair of presidential vetoes.

In February, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly exercised his veto authority to kill bills that would have created the Healthy Diné Nation Act and would have eliminated a 5 percent sales tax on fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, water, nuts, seeds and nut butters. Both bills were passed by the council during the winter session in January.

In a memorandum outlining the reason for the vetoes, Shelly wrote that the tribal government is not prepared to implement and collect taxes on junk food.

A provision under the Healthy Diné Nation Act would have added a 2-percent sales tax to junk food purchased on the reservation.

Revenue collected from the junk food tax would have been deposited into a Community Wellness Development Projects Fund and used by chapters to develop recreational opportunities for tribal members.

The legislation defined junk food as sweetened beverages and prepackaged and non-prepackaged snacks low in essential nutrients and high in salt, fat and sugar. Included were snack chips, candy, cookies and pastries.

Fresh fruits and fresh vegetables were defined as produce sold in fresh form and considered perishable.

The call to tax junk food while eliminating the tax on healthy food was part of a two-year initiative by the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance, a group comprised of community health advocates from across the Navajo Nation.

"The two pieces of legislation were meant to bring awareness and take responsibility of our health problems, to address access to healthy foods and the consumption of junk foods, and to initiate a health policy that would be sustainable for our people," the group said in a press release after Shelly issued the vetoes.

Both of the override bills were posted on the council's website and will be eligible for committee action on Wednesday. They were assigned to the Naa'bik'íyáti' Committee and the council, where final authority rests.

Delegate Jonathan Hale, who represents Oak Springs and St. Michaels chapters in Arizona, is sponsoring the override bills.

Noel Lyn Smith covers the Navajo Nation for The Daily Times. She can be reached at 505-564-4636. nsmith@dailytimes.com Follow her @nsmithdt on Twitter.
Support the Healthy Diné Nation Act!

NOTAH BEGAY III | 3/22/14

As I sit here listening to my 6-year-old daughter read, I wonder what the future holds for her and the next generation of Navajo children. Childhood obesity and diabetes continue to plague the Navajo Nation and American Indian communities across the United States. These negative trends among Navajo youth raise important questions for tribal communities. How will our Navajo Nation government and we, as Navajo people, work together to combat these negative trends?

Let's not kid ourselves. Defeating diabetes and obesity will not be easy. It will take commitment, creativity, and reliance on our traditional values to solve these problems. More importantly, these issues require all of us to take a stand as we work to reclaim control of our diets, health, wellness and community well-being. But we need a partner in the Navajo Nation government.

The passing of the Healthy Diné Nation Act by the Navajo Nation Council was a big step forward. The battle to prevent our kids from developing Type 2 diabetes cannot be won without the support of our Tribal Leaders. This legislation has a very simple, two-part approach: first, increase access to and affordability of fresh and healthy foods sold on the reservation by removing the five percent Navajo sales tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, and water sold on the reservation and, second, implement a small two percent additional sales tax on "junk food" sold on the reservation, with revenues generated from the tax going back into Navajo communities for health and wellness programs. The two parts work together for the good of the people.

I am inspired by the grass roots movement among the Navajo people that led to this important legislation, and the Navajo Council Members who stood up to be a part of this movement. I stand with them today.

But a week after the Healthy Diné Nation Act passed, I was disappointed and discouraged to learn that this important legislation was vetoed. The veto sends a dangerous message that the futures of our children are for sale to outside corporate interests that have no concern for the health of the Navajo people. If we fail to maintain our sovereign identity, our children will be left to pay the consequences. This issue isn't only about a tax but also about how the citizens of the Navajo Nation want to shape the future for their children.

I realize that new Navajo tax laws will not be the sole solution to an epidemic that

http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2014/03/22/support-healthy-dine-nation-act

3/26/2014
to develop type 2 diabetes in their lifetime based on current childhood obesity rates. But the Healthy Diné Nation Act represents an idea that brings together the resources and leadership of Navajo government and combines them with the best interests of the Navajo people. The reality facing our communities is that if government and family leaders continue to ignore the childhood obesity and diabetes issue it will ensure that some of our children will not outlive their parents.
Navajo Nation should reverse health act veto

By Nehoth Begay III / ProfessionalObserver
PUBLISHED: Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 12:35 am

As I sit here listening to my 8-year-old daughter read, I wonder what the future holds for her and the next generation of Navajo children. Childhood obesity and diabetes continue to plague the Navajo Nation and American Indian communities across the United States.

These negative trends among Navajo youths raise important questions for tribal communities. How will our Navajo Nation government and we, as Navajo people, work together to combat these negative trends?

Let’s not kid ourselves. Defeating diabetes and obesity will not be easy. It will take commitment, creativity and reliance on our traditional values to solve these problems.

More importantly, these issues require all of us to take a stand as we work to reclaim control of our health, wellness, diets and community well-being.

But we need a partner in the Navajo Nation government.

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This legislation has a very simple, two-part approach:

First, increase access to and affordability of fresh and healthy foods sold on the reservation by removing the 5 percent Navajo sales tax on fresh fruits, vegetables and water sold on the reservation.

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The two parts work together for the good of the people.

I am inspired by the grassroots movement among the Navajo people that led to this important legislation and the Navajo Council members who stood up to be a part of this movement.

I stand with them today.

But a week after the Healthy Diné Nation Act passed, I was disappointed and discouraged to learn that this important legislation was vetoed.

The veto sends a dangerous message that the futures of our children are for sale to outsiders. It also shows that the Navajo people don’t have any concern for the health of the Navajo people.

If we fail to maintain our sovereign identity, our children will be left to pay the consequences. This issue isn’t only about a tax but also about how the citizens of the Navajo Nation want to shape the future for their children.

I realize that new Navajo tax laws will not be the sole solution to an epidemic that results in the rate of diabetes being 2.3 times higher within the Navajo Nation than elsewhere in the U.S. or that 50 percent of American Indian children are projected to develop type 2 diabetes in their lifetime based on current childhood obesity rates.

But the Healthy Diné Nation Act represents an idea that brings together the resources and leadership of Navajo government, and combines them with the best interests of the Navajo people. The reality facing our communities is that if government and family leaders continue to ignore the childhood obesity and diabetes issue, it will ensure that some of our children will outlive their parents.

Just as my grandfather, Nehoth Begay Sr., and the Navajo Code Talkers played an instrumental role in winning the Pacific Theater during World War II, the Healthy Diné Nation Act sets us on a path forward for the Navajo people to win in the fight against diabetes and obesity, and for healthier communities.

It also demonstrates that the Navajo people will not sit idly by and allow their children to slide into lives of chronic disease.

It is time for our citizens — and our Navajo leaders — to exercise a new path of self-determination that encourages the government and its people to work together in order to find solutions to these major health problems.

It is time for the Navajo Nation Council to overturn the veto.
Navajo Nation should reverse health act veto | ABQJournal Online

Notah Begay III (Navajo, San Felipe, 'Isleta) founded the Notah Begay III Foundation, whose mission is to battle obesity and type 2 diabetes in Native American children.

SUGGESTED READING:

- Editorial: Junk food tax might be a health game
- Group pushes for junk food tax on Navajo
- Navajo president blocks junk food tax
- Curing Diabetes 'Self-inflicted' is Misleading

COMMENTS

Note: Readers can use their Facebook identity for online comments or can use Hotmail, Yahoo or AOL accounts via the "Comment using" pulldown menu. You may send a news tip or an anonymous comment directly to the reporter, click here.

Letters: Council needs to overturn junk food tax veto - Navajo Times

NAVAJO TIMES

LETTERS

Council needs to overturn junk food tax veto

WINOOW ROCK, March 13, 2014

Text size: A A

As I sit here listening to my 6-year-old daughter read, I wonder what the future holds for her and the next generation of Navajo children.

Childhood obesity and diabetes continue to plague the Navajo Nation and American Indian communities across the United States. These negative trends among Navajo youth raise important questions for tribal communities. How will our Navajo Nation government and we, as Navajo people, work together to combat these negative trends?

Defeating diabetes and obesity will not be easy. It will take commitment, creativity, and reliance on our traditional values to solve these problems. More importantly, these issues require all of us to take a stand as we work to reclaim control of our health, wellness, diets and community well being. But we need a partner in the Navajo Nation government.

The passing of the Healthy Diné Nation Act by the Navajo Nation Council was a big step forward. The battle to prevent our kids from developing Type 2 diabetes cannot be won without the support of our tribal leaders. This legislation has a very simple approach.

First, increase access to and affordability of fresh and healthy foods sold on the reservation by removing the 5 percent sales tax on fresh fruits, vegetables, and water sold on the reservation. Second, implement a small 2 percent additional sales tax on "junk food" sold on the reservation, with revenues generated from the tax going back into Navajo communities for health and wellness programs. The two parts work together for the good of the people.

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But a week after the Healthy Diné Nation Act passed, I was disappointed and discouraged to learn that this important legislation was vetoed, which sends a dangerous message that the futures of our children are for sale to outside corporate interests that have no concern for the health of the Navajo people. If we fail to maintain our sovereign identity, our children will be left to pay the consequences. This issue isn't only about a tax but also about how the citizens of the Navajo Nation want to shape the future for their children. I realize that new Navajo tax laws will not be the sole solution to an epidemic that results in the rate of diabetes being 2-3 times higher within the Navajo Nation than elsewhere in the U.S. or that 50 percent of American Indian children are projected to develop Type 2 diabetes in their lifetime based on current childhood obesity rates. But the Act represents an idea that brings together the resources and leadership of Navajo government and combines them with the best interests of the Navajo people.

The reality facing our communities is that if government and family leaders continue to ignore the childhood obesity and diabetes issue, it will ensure that some of our children will not outlive their parents. Just as my grandfather, Notah Begay Sr. and the Navajo Code Talkers played an instrumental role in winning the Pacific Theater during World War II, the Act sets us on a path forward for the Navajo people to win in the fight against diabetes and obesity and for healthier communities. It also demonstrates that the Navajo people will not sit idly by and allow their children to slide into lives of chronic disease.

http://navajotimes.com/opinions/2014/03/14/031314letters.php

7/8/2014
It time for our citizens and our Navajo leaders to understand that encouraging the government and its people to work together in order to find solutions to these major health problems. It is time for the Council to overturn the veto.

Notah Begay III
Professional golfer and founder
Notah Begay III Foundation

Offer to provide accounting still stands

I would like to acknowledge the Navajo Times for the story on the "Bennett Freeze accounting stalled in court" in the Feb. 20, 2014 issue.

I would like to correct the statement I am said to have made in a court hearing. I was purported to have stated to the individuals requesting accounting, which is the focus of the hearing, to join forces and get their own attorney. I did not make this statement.

The issue in the case is a request to the court to order the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office of the Navajo Nation to provide an accounting of the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust that administers and manages for benefit of people and communities impacted by the adverse effects of the passage of the Navajo and Hopi Land Settlement Act of 1974. The suit was filed in 2010.

Three years ago the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office, after being sued, worked with Navajo Nation Department of Justice and offered to provide the accounting requested in form of a settlement. This offer still stands. The attorney who represented the original petitioners recently renewed a demand for detailed accounting of the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Funds. This case has been prolonged due to disagreement within the petitioners that has separated into two groups.

With the current Navajo Nation administration policy of transparency, the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office, while respecting confidentiality protocols and immunity from claims for accounting, stands by its offer to provide accounting to the petitioners without court oversight. Although the offer has not been accepted, the office has made numerous community meetings to orientate and update them on projects and issues. Not only is this offer open to the petitioners, we invite the public to examine records showing how the Navajo Rehabilitation Trust Funds are spent.

Raymond Maxx
Executive Director Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office
Window Rock, Ariz.

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Now with the Arizona Division III State Basketball Tournament completed, our questions still remain unanswered. Hundreds of parents continue to express these important questions.
Navajo Junk Food Tax Still on the Table

MICHAELA SAUNDERS | 2/28/14

Denisa Livingston knows what progress looks like and she's seeing it at home on the Navajo Nation.

Livingston has been an active supporter of the legislation that would have made Navajo Nation the first government to tax junk food at a higher rate and tax healthy items, such as nuts, seeds and produce, at a lower rate than other foods.

She and other volunteers with the grassroots Diné Community Advocacy Alliance began their journey in August 2012, first pushing for the junk food tax in summer 2013 and again in January 2014. The second time, the Navajo Nation Council adopted the bills in a 12 to 7 vote.

While President Ben Shelly ultimately decided to veto the bills...
council with recommendations and expects them to be presented again. And the DCAA is moving forward with celebration plans for the second week of March.

RELATED: Navajo Nation Council Approves Junk Food Tax to Fight Obesity

Shelly Vetoes Navajo Junk Food Tax

For now, says Livingston, the cause for celebration is increased conversation among council members, government officials and others regarding the importance of wellness, and an increased willingness to confront the often uncomfortable reality of the complications of diabetes with friends, family and healthcare providers.

“We’re going to celebrate because no one has ever come this far,” Livingston said. And they’ll continue to work with council members to develop legislation Shelly would sign.

Rick Abasta, communications director for Navajo Nation, said Shelly is not against the goal of the legislation, but thinks it will be improved with clarifications about what would be taxed as junk food and tweaks to support the role of the Navajo Tax Commission.

“[Shelly] believes it is good legislation and there are just some changes that need to be made,” Abasta said. “He’d consider it again.”

As presented this winter, junk food would have been taxed at a rate two percent higher than others foods while the five percent food tax on healthier items would have been eliminated. Whether fast food chains, other restaurants or local mutton stands would have been subject to the junk food tax was not clear and, Abasta said, there was no money included to cover necessary changes in tax collection efforts.

Livingston said she and other supporters are glad these issues are being brought to light so they can be addressed. And the attention paid to the council’s vote has brought support from across Indian Country, too.

She’s had calls from tribes in Minnesota and Washington State, “even people saying ‘This is what we need for New Mexico or the country.’ There are people calling left and right. ... People are putting health on their agendas.”

Abasta said, it’s important that whatever legislation is developed supports the Navajo value of self-determination, Ani ada’anit ¡ h, or “do it for yourself.”

“It goes back to the age old wisdom. You have to do it for yourself; no one is going to do it for you. We need the proper education of the benefits of living a healthy lifestyle,” Abasta said. “We don’t want it to cost money once it’s enacted.”

President Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim consider wellness and fitness a pillar of their administration, Abasta said. Jim, a runner, participates in several events including a run sponsored by the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Project last year that covered 400 miles of the nation. Abasta said T-shirts commemorating participation in NNSDP races are a common site on the reservation.

Betti Delrow, program manager of the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Project, was not involved in the food tax legislation. But she’s focused everyday on the shared goal of education to prevent diabetes. The project, funded by an Indian Health Service grant, provides outreach including in-home and at school visits.
Navajo Junk Food Tax Still on the Table - ICTMN.com

The focus is on those who don't have diabetes, ranging in age from preschool to about 55 years old. The project is working now on a data collection system that will allow for better tracking of program results.

"Our focus is on prevention and education. We're not clinical," Delrow said. "Those who already have diabetes are going to be difficult to change."

There are three wellness centers at Navajo Nation now, Delrow said, with more proposed. Taxes collected from the sale of "junk food" would support the creation of more centers and other wellness efforts such as healthy cooking classes and gardening support.

Change is difficult, Livingston agrees, but not impossible. Her mother reversed her diabetes with diet and exercise and Livingston says she wants others to have the same opportunities.

"We do have solutions to overcome disease and sickness. Getting there is going to be challenging and slow, but this is to improve the health of our people," Livingston said. "If this can just save one life, we've done our job. One individual, one family, it will be well worth it."

This article was originally published by Wellbound Storytellers. Read more blogs about healthy living published by Natives throughout Indian country at WellboundStorytellers.com.

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POST A COMMENT

1 Comment

Maureen Beach

If the intent is to reduce obesity and diabetes, education is a far more productive path than regulation. That's because complex health conditions simply don't boil down to any one source of calories. Rather, all calories count and balancing intake with physical activity is key. The nation's leading authorities on diabetes treatment and prevention advocate such a holistic approach, saying millions of people can avoid or delay Type 2 diabetes by losing weight through diet and exercise. With a greater understanding of this important balance through education, people can make these informed choices for themselves. - Maureen Beach, American Beverage Association

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Tue, 03/04/2014 - 11:41
February 14, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President Shelly Missed A Crucial Opportunity

After a two year initiative, an awareness group of grassroots community members called the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) celebrated the enactment of the Healthy Diné Nation Act and the elimination of the current sales tax on healthy foods to improve health by the Navajo Nation Council. Sadly, both bills were vetoed by President Shelly.

Regarding the press release from President Shelly, the Navajo Nation is not ready to implement the collection of taxes on junk food, and our president is leaving the responsibility to the federal government to address our health concerns. The Navajo Wellness philosophy teaches us to take responsibility of the health and well-being of ourselves, families, communities, and environment. This philosophy was demonstrated through chapter support resolutions, letters of support, and countless hours of volunteerism. President Shelly lacks confidence in his administration and departments to implement appropriate measures and ensure necessary regulation to make health and wellness of the Navajo Nation a priority. Additionally, Mr. Martin Ashley, Executive Director of Navajo Nation Tax Commission, did not express any concerns about his staff’s incapacity to implement the tax in any of the six meetings we had with him.

The two pieces of legislation were meant to bring awareness and take responsibility of our health problems, to address access to healthy foods and the consumption of junk foods, and to initiate a health policy that would be sustainable for our people. President Shelly has failed to recognize this and has ignored one of his five pillars of “wellness and healthy living,” as well as the First Lady’s initiative on prevention of childhood obesity.

DCAA should have been given the opportunity to respond to the questions and concerns that President Shelly had. As grassroots community members, constituents, and concerned citizens, we have been diligent to respond to any issues regarding the two pieces of legislation. We worked with the Navajo Nation Council to address their concerns on a tax on junk food for the past two years.

The Navajo Nation faces a health crisis that needs to be addressed NOW to restore a vision of living a long and healthy life. Education is very effective when the community members take ownership of critical matters and are allowed to participate.
in the decision-making process to create positive change. As community members, we are grateful for the community-wide discussions about the health and future of our people that are now happening. We are also disheartened that the Navajo Nation has missed a crucial opportunity to demonstrate our leadership and sovereignty, and become an example of a healthy nation to the rest of the world.

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Council Delegate Danny Simpson will request override of President Shelly’s veto of the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013

Bill to eliminate sales tax on fresh fruits and fresh vegetables also vetoed

WINDOW ROCK – On Thursday, Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageez, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ah, Whiterock) addressed Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly’s veto of Resolution CJA-04-14, the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013 which sought to impose a two-percent sales tax, in addition to the Navajo Nation’s current five-percent sales tax, on “junk food” sold within the Navajo Nation.

The tax revenue generated would have been used by chapters to develop wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, swimming pools, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

Delegate Simpson who sponsored the bill said by vetoing the resolution, President Shelly is not upholding “healthy living” which is one of the “five main pillars of focus” that his administration has continuously promoted since taking office.

“President Shelly outright contradicted his stance on healthy living by vetoing the resolution,” said Delegate Simpson. “The President is sending a message that minor issues such as changing tax forms and reprogramming cash registers to identify junk food outweigh the health of Navajo people and the need to address the diabetes epidemic on our Nation.”

In President Shelly’s memo to Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood), President Shelly said “the Navajo Nation government is not currently prepared to implement and collect taxes on junk food.”

“This legislation is an unfunded mandate, as there are no funds identified or appropriated to pay for the tax administration. Although the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission has a primary responsibility of collecting and regulating taxes, if imposed on the ONTC, this new responsibility would only increase the burden on the already underfunded tax office,” President Shelly wrote.

The Navajo Nation Council passed the Healthy Diné Nation Act on Jan. 30, along with a separate bill that sought to eliminate the current five-percent sales tax on fresh fruits and fresh vegetables, which was also vetoed by President Shelly on Wednesday.

President Shelly also cited a “lack of regulatory provisions” as it relates to overseeing the collection of the sales tax.

In response, Delegate Simpson said the President has not established a tax regulatory office to oversee or to regulate any of the Nation’s current tax revenues.
"If the President wants to use a lack of regulation as his reason for vetoing, why hasn’t he established a tax regulatory office to oversee all of the Nation’s tax revenues?" asked Delegate Simpson.

Delegate Simpson began working on the initiative over two years ago with the help of community members who are part of group known as the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance.

DCAA member Denisa Livingston, expressed disappointment in President Shelly’s decision, adding that by vetoing the Healthy Diné Nation Act the President is “leaving the responsibility to the federal government to address our health concerns.”

“In all fairness, DCAA should have been given the opportunity to respond to the questions and concerns that President Shelly had. We have been diligent to respond to any issues regarding the two pieces of legislation. Unfortunately, the president did not have the courtesy to meet with us to discuss the issues to resolve any concerns,” Livingston stated.

Delegate Simpson said the group has continued to receive support despite the President’s veto.

“One supporter called it a ‘great loss for the Navajo people and a win for the food and beverage industry,’” Delegate Simpson said.

Delegate Simpson plans to introduce legislation to override President Shelly’s veto of both resolutions, which will require two-thirds approval, or 16 supporting votes, from the Council.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)
President Shelly vetoes junk food tax, cites regulatory concerns

WINDOW ROCK—On Feb. 12, 2014, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly penned his signature to veto the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013 and cited concerns with funding, regulatory considerations that were not included in the legislation passed by the 22nd Navajo Nation Council during the winter session.

The Shelly-Jim administration has focused on wellness and has healthy lives as one of the five main pillars of focus since taking office. However, the lack of sufficient regulatory provisions limited the legislation’s chance for approval.

After meeting with his general counsel and the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission, President Shelly said the legislation would create an unfunded mandate, as there were no funds identified or appropriated to pay for the tax administration. In addition, the new responsibilities would increase the burden on the already underfunded tax office.

“There is no impact analysis. What’s the impact on the local businesses, especially the small businesses? Is this tax legislation going to become law without the Nation clearly understanding its impact on Navajo businesses,” he questioned.

A Jan. 23 memo from Martin Ashley, executive director of ONTC, responded to questions posed by the Speaker Johnny Naize on Jan. 15 regarding the amount of funds collected from junk food items and the impact of the tax elimination on fresh fruits and vegetables.

“Office of the Navajo Tax Commission has not surveyed the retailers to determine how much of the sales is derived from junk food to answer the questions posed,” the memo stated.

ONTC provided a schedule with estimated percentages of junk food revenues based on FY 2013 gross retail sales on the Navajo Nation, which totaled $172.9 million. Included was a projection on the impact of eliminating taxes on fresh fruits and vegetables.

The matrix on was based on 50 to 80 percent of the FY 2013 gross retail sales. Multiplied against the gross 2 percent tax, the revenue projections varied from $1.7 to $2.7 million.

Conversely, the sales tax elimination on fruits, vegetables, water, nuts and other healthy foods were projected against 10 to 20 percent the FY 2013 gross retail sales and multiplied by the proposed 5 percent tax break.

The amounts varied from $864,500 to $1,729,000 in consistent regulatory operations.

“This proposed tax will be imposed on the Navajo people, not the food and beverage industry or its distributors,” President Shelly said. “The junk food importers will continue business as usual.

“The bottom line is that Navajo people will be taxed to pay for community wellness projects to address health concerns that are the trust responsibility of the federal government,” he added.

Other considerations included questions if restaurants, fast food chains and mutton stands decreased revenue to the Navajo Nation general fund. The cost estimates were based on 79 retail site locations on the Navajo Nation.

More research in these areas of concern need to addressed before the legislation is signed into law, President Shelly said, because Navajo businesses and consumers warrant due diligence on the matter.

Other considerations included the education of retail sales taxpayers on the legislation; communication with all retail outlets; changes in the tax forms and instructions; reprogramming cash registers to identify junk food taxable items; educating ONTC staff on compliance; and would also be subject to junk food taxation.

The Navajo Nation is not ready for implementation of collecting taxes on junk food. President Shelly said we must explore other alternatives like focusing on education of health issues. Taxation is not the answer.

-30-
Navajo Nation looking to enact 'Junk Food Tax' - Watch Now
KOB Eyewitness News 4 Midday Live Newscast - Watch Now

Navajo Nation looking to enact 'Junk Food Tax'

On the Navajo Nation, health is a problem.

"Native Americans, especially Navajos, have a two to three times rate for obesity and diabetes than the national average," said Denise Livingston.

Liveston’s group, Diné Community Advocacy Alliance, is pushing for change.

The group proposed two legislations— one raises tax on junk foods by two percent. The other reduces tax to zero on healthy foods like fresh fruit, vegetables and water. The Navajo Nation council approved both.

People KOB Eyewitness News 4 talked to support the legislation.

Holly Holyam lives in Shiprock.

"We need to understand because obesity is causing us a lot of health problems, like diabetes," said Holyam, "it's just not good."

Opponents argue higher taxes will force customers to buy lower-priced unhealthy snacks in border towns.

"If you look at the very remote places, I'm sure they will not be driving to border towns," said Livingston.

Livingston said there is more work to be done.

"We are so excited because of what people are calling a defeat against soda industry."

Navajo Nation president Ben Shelly is expected to sign the pair of legislations into law.

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FEB 4
Navajo Nation passes tax on junk food

by The Stream Team (/profiles/t/the-stream-team.html)
- @ajamstream (http://www.twitter.com/ajamstream)

A small business in Navajo Nation.
Navajo Nation passes tax on junk food | Al Jazeera America

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The Navajo Nation is on its way to implementing a junk food sales tax, which could make it not only the first Native American-governed territory but also the first region in the United States to do so.

On Jan. 30, the Navajo Nation Council voted in favor of the Healthy Diné Nation Act to increase the sales tax on junk food by two percent and eliminate the five percent sales tax on healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables, water, nuts and seeds. The bill has gone to Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly who will need to approve or veto the legislation within 10 days.

The legislation defines junk food as:

- sweetened beverages and pre-packaged and non-prepackaged snacks low in essential nutrients and high in salt, fat, and sugar including snack chips, candy, cookies, and pastries, excluding nuts, nut butters, and seeds.

The reservation, which has 175,000 residents and spans parts of Arizona, southeastern Utah, and northwestern New Mexico, will allocate the sales tax revenue to finance community services and amenities geared towards health and recreation.

Many see the vote as a positive step in curbing obesity and its related diseases. More than 80 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives between 20 and 74 years old are considered overweight or obese, and the rate of diabetes is 2.3 times higher within the Navajo Nation than elsewhere in the U.S.

Others were less confident the tax would have a positive impact. The Navajo Nation averages six residents per square mile, and many must travel long distances to go to the grocery store. Packaged foods, and thus less healthy options, are a common choice.

Navajo Nation Hikes Sales Taxes on ‘Junk Foods,’ Makes Healthy Food Choices Tax-Free

By Dan Flynn | February 3, 2014

The Navajo Nation is going to use sales tax policies to try changing food habits on the largest Indian reservation in the United States.

The Navajo Nation Council on Jan. 30 approved an additional 2-percent sales tax on so-called “junk foods,” including all sugary beverages. The addition will increase the total sales tax on those items to 7 percent.

At the same time, the existing 5-percent sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables and nutritious snacks such as seeds and nuts was cut to zero on the 27,495 square-mile reservation that spans northeastern Arizona, southeastern Utah and northwestern New Mexico.

The council voted 12-7 to impose the additional 2-percent sales tax on junk foods and 17-1 to entirely eliminate sales taxes on healthy foods.

“Each one of us here has a relative that is diabetic, and we face that fact every single day,” Council Delegate Danny Simpson said, noting that the added sales tax is part of a campaign to promote healthy living and increase awareness about the diabetes epidemic affecting a growing number of Navajo people.

Included on the list of foods getting the higher tax treatment are sweetened beverages and snacks low in essential nutrients and high in salt, fat and sugar. The latter include chips, candy, cookies and pastries.

Revenue from the extra 2-percent sales tax will go to a Community Wellness Development Project Fund to finance wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, swimming pools and community gardens.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie expressed doubts about using sales tax policies to change behaviors and predicted that higher junk food prices on the reservation will drive residents to make purchases outside its boundaries.

After a Dec. 31, 2018, sunset clause was added to the additional sales tax, Tsosie voted for the legislation to see what happens.
Navajo Nation Hikes Sales Taxes on 'Junk Foods,' Makes Healthy Food Choices Tax-Free...

Page 2 of 2

The council votes were victories for community organizers who have worked for two years to promote more healthy eating habits on the Navajo Nation in order to combat the growing problems of obesity and diabetes. Along with other diseases related to obesity, including high blood pressure, cardiovascular diseases, stroke and renal failures, the organizers say that unhealthy food choices are driving up health care costs on the reservation and must be turned around.

The population on the reservation totals about 175,000, but the area is so large that there are just slightly more than six residents per square mile. Many travel long distances to make any grocery purchases, resulting in packaged foods being common choices.

Diabetes is about 2.3 times more common on the Navajo Nation than off. The new sales tax rates take effect with the signature of Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly.

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Navajo Applauded for New 'Junk Food' Tax

A statement from director of Voices for Healthy Kids, Jill Birnbaum, on news that the Navajo Nation Council enacts the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013

Released: 2/1/2014 10:00 AM EST
Source Newsroom: Voices for Healthy Kids

Newswise — "We are inspired by the leadership of the Navajo Nation Council, as they take a big step forward in the movement to make healthy food more affordable," commends Jill Birnbaum, executive director of Voices for Healthy Kids, a joint initiative of the American Heart Association and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

"We know that making the switch from unhealthy foods to healthy foods can cut calories kids don’t need. Navajo Nations is demonstrating how communities can help make healthy foods more appealing and affordable than unhealthy ones. Research shows consumption of many types of foods are impacted by price, and we look forward to seeing how these new junk food taxes change the consumption of healthy and unhealthy foods. We congratulate the members of the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance on their efforts to ensure families are encouraged to buy healthy foods."

Voices for Healthy Kids is working with communities across the nation to ensure that children have access to healthy food and physical activity where they live, learn and play. For more information, visit www.voicesforhealthykids.org.
Navajo Nation Council Approves Junk Food Tax to Fight Obesity

ALYSA LANDRY | 1/1/14

The Navajo Nation Council on Thursday approved a 2 percent increase in sales tax for junk food sold on the 27,000-square-mile reservation, becoming the first tribe in the country to install a so-called “junk food tax.”

The council approved the bill, known as the Healthy Dine Nation Act, with a 12-7 vote on the final day of its regular winter session. The bill was one of two passed Thursday that lawmakers and health care advocates hope encourage Navajos to give up junk food in favor of fresh, healthy food.

The Healthy Dine Nation Act increases the sales tax to 7 percent on sweetened beverages and snacks low in essential nutrients and high in salt, fat and sugar. This includes chips, candy, cookies and pastries. The bill also states that the revenue collected from the tax hike will be deposited into a special fund to develop wellness centers, parks, basketball courts, trails, swimming pools, picnic grounds and health education classes.

Bill sponsor Danny Simpson, who represents eight chapters in the Eastern Navajo Agency, said the tax increase will help promote healthy living and bring awareness to the diabetes epidemic on the reservation.

"Each one of us here has a relative who’s diabetic, and we face that fact every single day," he told council members prior to the vote.
An estimated 10 percent of the Navajo population has diabetes, said David Foley, an epidemiologist for the Navajo Nation Division of Health. In numbers, that’s about 24,600 people; another 75,000 people are pre-diabetic.

The junk food tax is unprecedented, not just in Indian Country, but in the nation as a whole, said Crystal Echo Hawk, executive director of the Notah Begay III Foundation, a non-profit organization that combats obesity and diabetes among Natives.

“This is the only one in the country, so the national significance of this cannot be underplayed,” she said. “Bigger cities have been trying to get something like this passed for years, and the Navajo Nation is the first to get it done.”

Passage of the Healthy Diné Nation Act began two years ago as a grassroots effort from members of the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance who studied rates of obesity and diabetes on the reservation and decided existing prevention programs weren’t doing enough.

“Even though there was a lot of education, people seemed to not be listening,” said Gloria Ann Begay, project manager for the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance. “So we looked at policies like the tobacco tax or the seat belt laws and we decided that taxing junk food might discourage the purchase of it.”

Begay estimates that between 55 and 85 percent of all food available in grocery or convenience stores on the reservation can be considered junk food. Store owners argue they are simply selling what the people want to buy, she said.

“Store owners claim it’s supply and demand,” she said. “They’re just giving us what we want.”

The tax does nothing to curb the purchase of junk food in border towns, where many residents already shop, Begay said. Some people drive as far as 200 miles round-trip to get to a grocery store in towns like Farmington or Gallup, N.M., or Flagstaff, Ariz.

Calling the tax a “first step,” Begay said she hopes it acts as a deterrent in check-out lines. Proponents of the tax also hope it persuades store owners to carry more healthy food so low-income residents who can’t afford to drive to border towns aren’t forced to shoulder the extra financial burden.

The 2 percent increase in sales tax for junk food expires at the end of 2018 unless the Navajo Nation Council votes to extend it.

The council also approved a second bill Thursday to eliminate the existing 5 percent sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables, water, nuts, seeds and nut butters sold on the reservation. The purpose, according to the bill, is to "diminish the human and economic costs of obesity and diabetes on the Navajo Nation."

The vote on this bill was 17 to 1. Navajo President Ben Shelly has 10 days to sign the bills into law.

Both bills cite staggering statistics on the cost of living with diabetes — it can cost one person an estimated $15,000 per year to treat the disease and $169,000 or more per year to treat complications related to diabetes.

The Indian Health Service reports that American Indians and Alaska Natives experience diabetes at 2.3 times the rate of non-Hispanic whites. Obesity also can lead to increased risks of heart disease, hypertension, arthritis, respiratory or reproductive problems, sleep apnea and some types of cancer.

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Navajo lawmakers increase sales tax on junk food.

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Navajo lawmakers to increase sales tax on junk food

Navajo Indian Reservation

WINDOW ROCK, AZ – Purchasing junk food on the Navajo Nation could cost more money.

The Tribal Council approved legislation this week to impose an additional 2 percent sales tax on sweetened drinks and snacks high in salt and fat. That includes chips, candy and pastries.

The legislation now goes to tribal President Ben Shelly for consideration.

The 2 percent tax would be added on to the tribe's current 5 percent sales tax. Navajo communities could use the revenue for wellness centers, community parks, walking trails and picnic grounds.

Opponents of the bill say it will burden consumers. The reservation extends into Arizona, Utah and New Mexico.

The tax is set to expire at the end of 2018.

A separate bill approved by tribal lawmakers eliminates sales tax on fresh fruits and fresh vegetables.

http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_northern_az/other/navajo-lawmakers-to-increase-s... 2/3/2014
Navajo lawmakers increase sales tax on junk food

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. (AP) - Purchasing junk food on the Navajo Nation could cost more money.

The Tribal Council approved legislation this week to impose an additional 2 percent sales tax on sweetened drinks, and snacks high in salt and fat. That includes chips, candy and pastries.

The legislation is meant to combat high rates of diabetes and encourage healthy lifestyles now going to tribal President Ben Shelly for consideration.

The 2 percent tax would be added to the current 5 percent sales tax. Navajo communities in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico could use the revenue for wellness centers, community parks, walking trails and picnic grounds.

Opponents of the tax, which is set to expire at the end of 2018, say it will burden consumers.

A separate bill approved by tribal lawmakers eliminates sales tax on fresh fruits and fresh vegetables.
Navajos Vote to Try Junk-Food Tax in Fight Against Obesity

By ANA CAMPOY
Jan. 30, 2014 7:39 pm ET

Leaders of the Navajo Nation, whose people are struggling with obesity, along with those of numerous other Native American tribes, voted to impose higher taxes on junk foods while eliminating taxes on healthier alternatives.

The changes, passed Thursday by the Navajo Nation's tribal council, represent the latest attempt by U.S. communities to use legislation to encourage people to eat more healthily.

Under the proposed laws, which require approval by the tribe's president, taxes on soda and fatty snacks will go up to 7% from the current 3%, while fresh fruits, vegetables and meat won't be taxed at all.

"We have to teach ourselves to watch what we eat and how much of it we eat," said Jonathan Hale, a tribal council member who voted for the changes.

Opponents, including some Navajo lawmakers, said members of the impoverished tribe couldn't afford higher taxes on anything. They predicted the tax changes would drive some to purchase items such as soda and potato chips at stores outside the reservation.

"We're certainly going to see dollars leave the Navajo reservation," said Joshua Butler, a council member who voted against the junk-food tax proposal, but in favor of eliminating the tax on healthy foods.

The Navajo Nation is the largest Native American reservation in the United States, occupying parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. It has more than 300,000 members, though not all live within the reservation limits.

Several communities across the country in recent years have tried to tax foods that contribute to obesity, or promote healthy alternatives, according to the national Conference of State Legislatures.

Colorado enacted a law in 2013 that removed a state tax exemption for soft drinks and candy. In the same year, Washington increased taxes on candy, chewing gum, beer and carbonated beverages, though the measure was later repealed by voters.

Meanwhile, a soda tax proposed by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was shot down by the state legislature. And in California, farmers are eligible for tax credits for donating fresh fruits and vegetables to local food banks.

Supporters of the Navajo junk-food tax said it was necessary given the rate of obesity and diabetes on Indian reservations. Roughly one in three Navajos is diabetic or pre-diabetic, and anywhere between 20% and 30% are obese, according to data presented to the tribal lawmakers.

Native Americans in general are 60% more likely to be obese than non-Hispanic whites, and more than twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Some Navajo leaders are already taking their own advice to heart. Jonathan Nosie, one of the sponsors of the measures, said he has lost more than 100 pounds in less than a year.

"I had to show I was doing what I'm advocating for," he said.

Write to Ana Campoy at ana.campoy@wsj.com.
Diné Community Advocacy Alliance Celebrates Navajo Nation’s Passage of What is Believed to be the First “Junk Food” Tax in U.S. and Indian Country

Jan 31, 2014

(Note: First Nations issued this press release on behalf of DCAA)

Diné Community Advocacy Alliance Celebrates Navajo Nation’s Passage of What is Believed to be the First “Junk Food” Tax in U.S. and Indian Country

Window Rock, Arizona (Jan. 31, 2014) – Diné Community Advocacy Alliance (DCAA) today celebrated the historic passage by the Navajo Nation Council of two DCAA legislative initiatives that the young grassroots organization had championed as a way to begin to improve the health and nutrition of citizens on the Navajo Nation, who suffer high rates of diabetes, heart disease and other diet-related illnesses. The legislation is believed to be the very first of its kind not only in Indian Country, but in the entire United States.

On the last day of the council’s weeklong winter session yesterday (Jan. 30), the council passed a tax on junk food and eliminated a tax on fresh, healthy foods. Last summer, the council had rejected these same initiatives. The successful initiative is now known as the "Healthy Diné Nation Act."

DCAA Project Manager Gloria Begay said: “We worked hard for nearly two years on this effort, and to finally achieve this successful result is both rewarding and amazing, especially after failing to get it passed last July. We are elated for what this will mean for the health and well-being of the Navajo Nation and the standard it sets for other Indian nations and the U.S. overall. We sincerely thank the visionary council delegates who supported this legislation.”

The Healthy Diné Nation Act imposes a two percent sales tax, in addition to the Navajo Nation’s current five percent sales tax, on “junk food” sold within the Navajo Nation. The legislation was sponsored by Council Delegate Danny Simpson, who said the sales tax increase is part of an overall effort to promote healthy living and bring awareness to the diabetes epidemic that is affecting a growing number of Navajo people. “Each one of us here has a relative that’s diabetic and we face that fact every single day,” Simpson said in a Navajo Nation Council press release.

The legislation takes aim at sweetened beverages and snacks low in essential nutrients and high in salt, fat and sugar, including chips, candy, cookies and pastries, but it excludes nuts, nut butters and seeds. According to the council, the revenue collected from the two percent sales tax will be deposited into a Community Wellness Development Projects Fund to be administered by the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, following the development of a fund-management plan. The revenue will be used by Navajo chapters to develop community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

Following passage of the Healthy Diné Nation Act, the council also passed a separate bill that eliminates the current five percent sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables to encourage the purchase and consumption of high-quality foods.

Begay said DCAA received support from many individuals, Navajo organizations and communities. Also, she noted that DCAA was supported financially and otherwise in its successful effort by First Nations Development Institute, a Colorado-based national Native American nonprofit organization that works to improve Native American economies and communities. Michael Roberts, First Nations president, noted that this legislative session of the Navajo Nation is groundbreaking, not only for Indian Country but for the United States. "With the efforts of DCAA, the Navajo Nation became the first in the U.S. to successfully pass such legislation. DCAA and the Navajo Nation should be commended for their efforts to proactively explore legislative efforts to combat the detrimental health issues troubling Navajo and other Indian communities across the country."

Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye praised DCAA's work: "You have really opened the eyes of the people. You've truly opened my eyes and you've truly opened the delegates' eyes and it's starting to reach the chapters as well. You've done a good job. We need to figure out how we can all continue to work together to continue lowering the diabetes rate."

Media Contact:
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stargazer.begay@gmail.com

http://www.firstnations.org/node/698
'DEFEAT THE BEAST'

Proposed Navajo junk food tax designed to combat health problems

BY DONNA OLMSOEED
Journal Staff Writer

The Navajo Nation's governing body is expected to take up a pair of food tax proposals this week—one that would add an additional 2 percent tax on junk food like chips, doughnuts, and sugary sodas while another would eliminate taxes on fresh food such as fruits, vegetables, seeds, and nuts.

If the legislation passes, the money collected from the tax would be used for wellness initiatives, like cooking classes, community gardens, and walking trails or other exercise opportunities, according to the legislation the Navajo Nation Council will be considering this week.

The legislation is an effort to combat obesity, diabetes and related diseases and conditions like high blood pressure, stroke, renal failure, and cardiovascular disease that strike Navajos at an increasing rate, says healthy food advocate Dennis Livingston.

Livingston, along with neighbors, friends and family, have pushed efforts to reduce junk food consumption as part of the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance.

"If we change our diet, we can find a solution. We will defeat the beast," Livingston says, referring to a Navajo story about a beast that threatens the Navajo, but is defeated so the people can live in peace and prosperity.

Navajos now pay a 5 percent tax on food; if both proposals pass, the combined tax on junk food would be 7 percent, while certain healthy foods would not be taxed, according to Livingston.

Of the Navajo Nation's 300,000 people, 25,000 live on the reservation. NAVAJO NATION...

Deborah Cayedde, Tanya Henderson, Patrick Toye, Octaviano Mentes, T. Esther Yazzie and Stephanie Kao attended the Navajo Nation Council summer session to watch the proceedings and the vote on the junk food tax legislation proposed by the Dine Community Advocacy Alliance.

See PROPOSED on PAGE A2
Navajo Nation Council enacts the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013

WINDOW ROCK – On the final day of the Winter Session the Council voted 12-7 to enact the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013, which imposes a two-percent sales tax, in addition to the Navajo Nation’s current five-percent sales tax, on “junk food” sold within the Navajo Nation.

In his opening address to Council, legislation sponsor Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) said the sales tax increase is part of an overall effort to promote healthy living and to bring awareness to the diabetes epidemic that is affecting a growing number of Navajo People.

“Each one of us here has a relative that’s diabetic and we face that fact every single day,” said Delegate Simpson.

According to the legislation, “junk food” is defined as sweetened beverages and pre-packaged and non-prepackaged snacks low in essential nutrients and high in salt, fat, and sugar including snack chips, candy, cookies, and pastries, excluding nuts, nut butters, and seeds.

The legislation also states that all of the revenue collected from the two-percent sales tax will be deposited into a Community Wellness Development Projects Fund to be administered by the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, following the development of a fund management plan.

The revenue will be used by chapters to develop wellness centers, community parks, basketball courts, walking, running and bike trails, swimming pools, community gardens, family picnic grounds, and health education classes.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) expressed skepticism, saying the sales tax increase would potentially drive consumers to purchase “junk food” off the Navajo Nation to avoid paying the tax and might end up benefitting businesses in border towns.

Despite the uncertainties expressed by Delegate Tsosie, he voted in favor of the legislation largely due to a sunset clause which was added as an amendment to the bill by the Naabik’íyáti’ Committee on November 7.

The sunset clause states that the two-percent sales tax will expire at the end of calendar year 2018, unless extended by the Navajo Nation Council.
Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi) said he supports the efforts to promote healthy living and deterring the diabetes epidemic, however, he also stated that imposing the sales tax increase is a decision that should be left to Navajo People in the form of a referendum.

Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaille/Wheatfields, Tsé Chʼizhi) expressed appreciation to members of the grassroots organization known as the “Diné Community Advocacy Alliance” who worked with Delegate Simpson for two years to develop the legislation at the urging of community members.

“You have really opened the eyes of the people. You’ve truly opened my eyes and you’ve truly opened the delegates’ eyes and it’s starting to reach the chapters as well,” Delegate BeGaye said. “You’ve done a good job. We need to figure out how we can all continue to work together to continue lowering the diabetes rate.”

Also speaking in support of the bill, Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Ojato, Tsʼah Bii Kin) said that public awareness needs to continue even after passage of the bill.

“People out there are talking about this and it’s even international and national news,” said Delegate Nez. “I see this as a step toward self-sufficiency and an exercise of our sovereignty and if we move this forward I think it will show that we are the leader of American Indian nations.”

Following the passage of the Healthy Diné Nation Act, Council members also passed Legislation No. 0290-13, a separate bill also sponsored by Delegate Simpson that eliminates the current five-percent sales tax on fresh fruits and fresh vegetables.

President Shelly will have 10 calendar days to consider the bills once they are sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org.
Proposed tax aims to improve health

Health update

According to legislation proposed before the Nevada Senate this week that would tax junk food and eliminate taxes on fresh food to help curb obesity and diabetes.

Nevada Native Council Delegate Dana Wagner presented legislation that would tax junk food and eliminate taxes on fresh food to help curb obesity and diabetes.

"The USDA says we are a food desert. That means we don't have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. We have the highest rates of diabetes and obesity. We need to change that," she explained.

The federal government has classified the state as a food desert, which means residents have limited access to healthy food options. The legislation aims to address this issue by taxing junk food and eliminating taxes on fresh food.

Wagner said the proposal would help reduce the burden of obesity and diabetes on the state's residents, as well as encourage healthy eating habits.

"This is a step in the right direction. We need to do more to help our communities and our state," she added.

The legislation is currently in the planning stages and is expected to be voted on in the future.
Navajo council to decide whether to remove speaker

Navajo council to decide whether to remove speaker

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Navajo council to decide whether to remove speaker
Navajo junk food tax can serve as positive example

By Shelby Thomas | Published 11/24/13 6:08pm

A proposal for a 2 percent sales tax increase on junk food purchased in the Navajo Nation, which covers more than 27,000 square miles extending throughout northeastern Arizona, Utah and New Mexico, is currently heading to the Navajo Nation Council for consideration. The extra funds raised would be used to build wellness centers, basketball courts, parks, picnic grounds and gardens while also sponsoring health education classes.

The Office of Minority Health reported that Native Americans and Alaskan Natives are 60 percent more likely to be obese than non-Hispanic whites, and the American Diabetes Association reported this number has been rising over the past 20-30 years. It is more important than ever to address these health concerns and provide education to younger generations that will encourage healthy eating habits for not only the Native American community, but for the American public as a whole.

The tax increase is not drastic enough to completely stop the consumption of unhealthy foods like chips, candy, cookies and soda, but it discourages excessive purchasing of empty calories. At the same time, the money earned would be used to directly combat obesity and type 2 diabetes by giving the community more places to exercise and receive health education.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is one of the leading causes of death among Native Americans. Diabetes, poor diet, lack of exercise and obesity are factors that put individuals at risk, and these factors would all be combated by this tax increase and the programs it funds.

"I think it is a step in the right direction," said Jennie Joe, a professor emerita from the Department of Family and Community Medicine in the College of Medicine. "It at least promotes the idea that people in leadership have an understanding of the problem and are concerned enough to do something about it."

If this proposal proves to be successful in combating health problems throughout this community, it could spur other initiatives to help other at-risk groups. Joe said the behavioral changes and mindset that could result from this proposal have the potential to spread to other groups of people.

"It is very difficult to convince stores located near the reservation to take similar action ... but sometimes neighboring communities pay attention," Joe said. "If people understand, in their own terms, that certain foods aren't healthy for them, maybe when they go off the reservation they will likely make more intelligent choices."

The reality is, 49.5 percent of non-Hispanic blacks, 40.4 percent of Mexican Americans, 39.1 percent of Hispanics and 34.3 percent of non-Hispanic whites are obese, according to the CDC. Statistics don't just reveal a problem within the Native American community, but in American culture as a whole.

With such terrifyingly high statistics, now is the time to experiment with different methods to lower the risk of these life threatening conditions and the Navajo Nation should be just the beginning.
Winifred Tsosie, a biology junior who is half San Carlos Apache and half Navajo, is enrolled with the San Carlos Apache tribe. She said she supports the education this proposal could create for the small communities throughout the reservation.

"I like the idea of trying to curb junk food eating. We need to change the way we eat. We don't eat how we used to. All we are eating is sugar," Tsosie said. "If [the Navajo Nation Council] can get the health education out there ... that's the only way we are going to get anywhere. Otherwise [these habits] will continue."

It is important to provide these communities with as much care and guidance as possible. A 2 percent tax is not too much to ask for the numerous projects that can be accomplished with the money collected.

*Shelby Thomas is a sophomore studying journalism and sociology. Follow her @shelbyalayne.*

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Navajo Nation Considers Junk Food Tax

Story by Laura Palmisano

last updated November 12, 2013

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A new bill proposes a two percent sales tax increase on various junk food items on the Navajo Nation.

In a press release, Council Delegate Danny Simpson, who is sponsor of the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013, said the legislation, if approved by the Navajo Nation Council, is one way to fight the diabetes and obesity epidemic on the reservation.

The revenue from the tax would go to community wellness projects, according to the release.

A spokesman for the tribe said the council will review the junk food tax in the coming months, but a firm date is not set.
Opponents of the bill said if it passes people will buy junk food off the reservation equating to lost revenue for the nation.

Lawmakers in Mexico approved new taxes on sugary drinks and junk food last month in an effort to combat rising rates of obesity and diabetes in their country.

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On July 17, 2013, the “Navajo Nation Junk Food Sales Tax Act of 2013” (legislation No. 0085-13),
which called for a two percent sales tax on junk food sales occurring on the reservation, was narrowly defeated. Sponsored by Councilman Danny Simpson, the act called for the taxation of soda, sugar-sweetened beverages and junk food sold within the Navajo Nation while also calling for the elimination of the tribal sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables. Similar legislation has been proposed by various state and local governments; however this is the first time an Indian Nation has proposed this type of legislation.

Read more at http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/08/05/support-food-sovereignty-pass-twinkle-death-tax.

AUTHOR

Rebekah Lu

My name is Rebekah and I am an attorney specializing in Indirect Taxes at Thomson Reuters. I earned my JD from Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law in Portland, Oregon and have focused exclusively on indirect tax law including sales/use, VAT and telecom for the past seven years. Currently I am a senior analyst in the U.S. Tax Research Department where my responsibilities include...
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Feb 3, 2014 - The Navajo Nation Council on Jan. 30 approved an additional 2-percent sales tax on so-called "junk foods," including all sugary beverages.

Navajos pass higher tax on junk food | Albuquerque Journal

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Jan 31, 2014 - The Navajo Nation Council, in its lengthy winter session, passed a tax on junk food and eliminated a tax on fresh, healthy foods Thursday.

Navajo Nation Council Passes Junk Food Tax - Arizona Public Media

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Feb 3, 2014 - A junk food tax is one step closer to becoming law on the Navajo Nation after being approved by the Nation Council on last week. The Healthy...

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The Navajo Nation Council on Tuesday passed legislation that will add a 2 percent tax on junk food and remove taxes on fresh food sold on the tribe.

Navajo Nation Council Approves Junk Food Tax

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Junk food might be getting more expensive across the Navajo Nation. The Tribal Council has approved an additional 2 percent tax on “junk food” purchases. A news release from the tribe says the new tax will help pay for health programs.

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Navajo lawmakers increase sales tax on junk food | KVOA

Navajo lawmakers in Arizona have approved a bill that would increase the sales tax on junk food. The bill, which was passed byput the Navajo Nation Council, is designed to address the growing problem of obesity on the Navajo reservation. The tax would apply to sugary drinks, sodas, and other high-sugar foods.

On the Navajo Nation, more than half of adults are overweight or obese, and a similar percentage of children are considered to be at risk for obesity. The Navajo Nation is the largest Native American reservation in the United States, and it is home to more than 300,000 people.

The new sales tax on junk food is expected to generate additional revenue for the Navajo Nation, which could be used to fund health initiatives and other programs aimed at improving the health of Navajo residents. The Navajo Nation Council, which is responsible for governing the reservation, has repeatedly called for action to address the issue of obesity on the reservation.

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www.diezeducationweb.com/organizational/organizational.html

Native American Foods & Health Initiatives.org
www.nativeamericanfoods.com/Programs/NavajoFoodTaxation.htm
The Community Advocacy Alliance (CDA) was awarded $5000 to support their efforts to advocate for the Navajo Nation Food Tax Act of 2013.

Navajo Nation Council to convene winter session
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FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) — The Navajo Nation Council begins its winter session Monday with scheduled committee meetings on topics ranging from removal of the president.

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Navajo Nation Office of Business Services...Law and Order Committee receives report on proposed Navajo Nation Alcohol Sales Tax...Americans Against Food Taxes

Navajo Nation Council
www.navajonationcouncil.org/index.htm
Navajo Nation Council: Office of the Speaker, P.O. Box 4390, Window Rock, Arizona 86515. Phone: 928-871-2190; Fax: 928-871-2265.

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Navajo Council to consider junk food tax proposal - CBS 5
www.cbs5az.com/.../navajo-council-consider-junk-food-tax-proposal...
A proposal for a sales tax on junk food is included in the Navajo Nation Council's budget. The legislation calls for an additional 2 percent tax on junk foods.

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As advocacy groups are campaigning for a new sales tax on the Navajo Nation that would target junk food.

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As advocacy groups are campaigning for a new sales tax on the Navajo Nation that would target junk food.

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www.kjzz.org/.../reservation-junk-food-tax-tribal-council-says-junk-food...
Junk food might soon be more expensive on the Navajo Nation. A proposed sales tax on junk food, which would be decided on in the Navajo Nation Council, is under consideration.

Navajo Nation could place additional tax on junk food - www.navajo-nsn.gov/.../office-of-the-speaker-media-contact... - PDF file
Navajo Nation could place additional tax on junk food. Buying snacks and junk foods on the Navajo Nation could get more expensive if a proposal to impose a sales tax on junk foods is approved. As the number of Navajos...

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Navajo Nation to build new homes for military vets - REDA - www.reda.com/.../navajo-nation-to-build-new-homes-for-military-vets...
Navajo Nation to build new homes for military vets. Food and Drug Administration tax is higher information.

Navajo Nation Considers Junk Food Tax | KRWW
www.krww.com/.../navajo-nation-considers-junk-food-tax...
A proposal for a sales tax on junk food is being considered by the Navajo Nation Council for consideration. The legislation calls for an additional 2 percent tax on junk food.

Navajo Nation Council approves bill to impose tax on junk - www.navajo-nsn.gov/.../office-of-the-speaker-media-contact... - PDF file
The Navajo Nation Council is considering a bill that would impose a 2 percent sales tax on junk foods sold on the Navajo Nation. A decision is expected to be made on Thursday.

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Navajo Nation narrowly rejected the junk food sales tax last summer. This week, the Navajo Nation Council narrowly rejected the junk food sales tax again.

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The Navajo Nation Council is considering a bill that would impose a 2 percent sales tax on junk food sold on the Navajo Nation. Delegate Jonathan Nez is co-sponsoring.

Navajo Council to consider junk food tax proposal

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FARMINGTON — A proposed sales tax on junk food is headed to the Navajo Nation Council for consideration. The legislation calls for an additional 2 percent tax on junk food.

Food experts: summit aimed at preventing extinction of tribe

The food and wellness policy summit included various international speakers from the Navajo Nation Department of Health, Department of Education Program.

Navajo Council to consider junk food tax proposal

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FARMINGTON — A proposed sales tax on junk food is headed to the Navajo Nation Council for consideration. The legislation calls for an additional 2 percent tax on junk food.

Navajo Council to consider junk food tax proposal - KGUN9.com

A proposed sales tax on junk food is headed to the Navajo Nation Council for consideration.

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Navajo Nation Junk Food Sales Tax Act: Navajo, Chiricahua Health Promotion Fund, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, Funding Community Advocacy.

Navajo Nation code could allow a 2% sales tax on junk food

On April 30, the Health and Human Services Committee considered legislation No. 2013-13, a bill proposing to amend Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code to...

Group pushes for junk food tax on Navajo Nation: KGOA.com.

A group pushes for a junk food tax on the Navajo Nation that would target junk food. Members of the Dine Community...

Navajo Nation Council Considering Junk Food Tax (Update)


A proposed sales tax on junk food is headed to the Navajo Nation Council for consideration. The legislation calls for an additional 2 percent tax on junk food.

Navajo Nation Council Approves Junk Food Tax


The Navajo Nation Council voted 12-7 on Thursday to pass the Navajo Nation Act of 2013. See the original article here: Navajo Nation Council.

Navajo Council for consider junk food tax proposal

Navajo Council for consider junk food tax proposal... www.navajonation.gov/news/nation/to_consider_junk_food_tax_proposal

FARMINGTON, N.M. — A proposed sales tax on junk food is headed to the Navajo Nation Council for consideration. The legislation calls for an additional 2 percent tax on junk food.

Junk food tax heading to Navajo Council: Picasa Group

After receiving approval Thursday from the House Rules Committee, a proposal to enact an additional sales tax on junk food is heading to the Navajo Nation Council.

Navajo Council to consider junk food tax proposal

Navajo Council to consider junk food tax proposal... KABC 7

A proposal to raise sales tax on junk food is headed to the Navajo Nation Council for consideration.

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