

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0131-24

DATE: June 21, 2024

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE IN THE STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

PURPOSE: The purpose of this legislation is to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline in the peyote in the states, local governments, and territories in the United States and to urge adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Final Authority: Naabik'íyáti' Committee

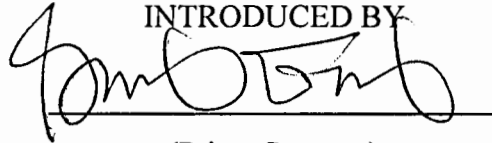
Vote Required: Simple Majority

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

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD At Mike III
Website Posting Time/Date 3:46 PM 6/24/24
Posting End Date: 06/29/24
Eligible for Action: 06/30/24

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2024

INTRODUCED BY



(Prime Sponsor)



TRACKING NO. 0131-24

AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE
DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE IN THE
STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES;
AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM ACT

WHEREAS,

- A. The Navajo Nation Council established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a standing committee to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances, and testimony relating to proposed county, state, and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701(A)(6).
- B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America. Treaty of 1868, signed June 1, 1868, proclaimed August 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667. The Navajo Nation is a federally recognized tribe.
- C. The use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes by Navajo people, and other federally recognized tribes, is one of the oldest religious traditions in the Western Hemisphere.
- D. The Navajo people, and other federally recognized tribes, who are bona fide members of Azee' Bee Nahaghá and the Native American Church, consume the sacred cactus plant known as peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*), which contains mescaline, for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

- 1 E. Peyote is only grown naturally in the southwestern part of Texas and parts of Mexico
2 and is drastically declining due to climate change, land conversion, land development,
3 ranching, agriculture, poaching, non-Indian psychedelic tourism, incorrect harvesting,
4 and other alarming factors.
- 5 F. Peyote is a slow-growing cactus plant that takes approximately ten or more years to
6 grow from a seed to a mature plant to be consumed, which impacts the premature
7 harvesting of peyote in its natural habitat.
- 8 G. The drastic decline in naturally occurring peyote will severely impact the cultural and
9 ceremonial use of peyote for the Navajo people and other federally recognized tribes.
- 10 H. The Navajo Nation recognizes the psychedelic movement by pharmaceutical, private
11 interests, and non-Indians who are heavily interested in peyote and its property of
12 mescaline which has caused serious concerns regarding the violation of federal laws—
13 American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 1996a
14 (“American Indian Religious Freedom Act”) and the Comprehensive Drug Abuse
15 Prevention and Controlled Act of 1970, P.L. 91-513, 84 Stat. 1236 (“Controlled
16 Substances Act”) that protect the ceremonial and cultural practices of peyote, and
17 mescaline in peyote, for the Navajo people, and other federally recognized tribes.
- 18 I. The Navajo Nation recognizes the American Indian Religious Freedom Act protects
19 the rights of Native Americans to exercise their traditional religions by ensuring access
20 to sites, use, and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through
21 ceremonies and traditional rites.
- 22 J. The Navajo Nation further recognizes the American Indians Religious Freedom Act
23 Amendments of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 1996a, P.L. 103-344 provided that “*the use,*
24 *possession, or transportation of peyote by an Indian for bona fide traditional*
25 *ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of a traditional Indian religion*
26 *is lawful and shall not be prohibited by the United States or any State.*”
- 27 K. The Navajo Nation recognizes that peyote and mescaline in the peyote cannot be
28 separate and are classified as Schedule I controlled substances under Controlled
29 Substances Act.
- 30 L. The Navajo Nation recognizes that the Congressional intent of the American Indians
Religious Freedom Act Amendments is to protect all properties of peyote, including

1 protection from non-bona fide ceremonial use by non-Indians. Currently, there are no
2 legal regulations to regulate or enforce the protection of mescaline that is extracted
3 from peyote and/or any other cactus plants (e.g., San Pedro, Peruvian Torch,
4 Echinopsis Zamnesiae, Bolivian Torch, etc.). Therefore, peyote and its properties of
5 mescaline will be jeopardized.

6 M. The Navajo Nation recognizes that synthetic mescaline is unnatural and human-made
7 (laboratory-made) and may cause adverse health impacts on human consumption. In
8 addition, non-Indians who develop therapeutic models associated with synthetic
9 mescaline and/or mescaline may misappropriate our Navajo cultural practices and
10 ceremonies, and other federally recognized tribes' customs.

11 N. The Navajo Nation strongly opposes any attempt to erode the purpose and intent of
12 the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and the Controlled Substances Act,
13 including the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline for non-Indian use by private,
14 corporate, tribal, state, or federal entities or organizations.

15 O. The Navajo Nation recognizes that the Navajo people, and other federally recognized
16 tribes, were historically persecuted and prosecuted for their ceremonial and cultural
17 use of peyote for more than a century and had to fight numerous legal and political
18 battles at the tribal, state, and federal levels to achieve the right to use peyote within
19 their respected traditional ceremonial and cultural practices.

20 P. The Navajo Nation seeks to ensure full protection of the rights and well-being of the
21 Navajo People, including their fundamental rights to the free exercise of religious,
22 ceremonial, and cultural beliefs and their related use of peyote pursuant to the First
23 Amendment of the Navajo Bill of Rights, titled, "*Declaring the Freedom of Religion*
24 *as a Basic Human Right*," which made an exception to the Navajo criminal code to
25 allow Azee' (Peyote) to be used for religious, ceremonial, and cultural purposes in the
26 Navajo Nation. Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CO-65-67.

27 Q. The Navajo Nation further recognizes that in 2005, the Navajo Nation amended the
28 Navajo Nation Criminal Code, 17 N.N.C. § 394 (C), Possession or Sale of Controlled
29 Substances stating, "*The listing of peyote (more commonly known as Azee') in*
30 *Subsection A does not apply to the use of Azee' by an enrolled member of an Indian*
tribe for bona fide ceremonial purposes in connection with Nahaghá. Individuals who

1 *use, possess, or transport Azee' for use in Nahaghá are exempt from this prohibition.*
2 *Azee' is lawful on the Navajo Nation."*

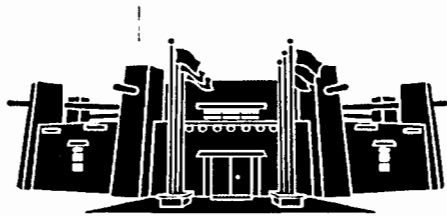
- 3 R. The Navajo Nation recognizes the use of Azee' (peyote) to be strictly used in a bona
4 fide traditional ceremonial purpose or connection with the practice of a traditional
5 Indian religion within the jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation, as in accordance with the
6 American Indian Religious Freedom Act and the Controlled Substances Act.
- 7 S. The Navajo Nation has serious concerns regarding the proposed use of peyote and
8 mescaline by non-Indians who are currently in violation of federal laws – including
9 the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and the Controlled Substances Act.
- 10 T. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote
11 and mescaline in the peyote as it is a cactus that could be excessively harvested and
12 will endanger the plant (peyote) and will also substantially affect the religious,
13 ceremonial, and cultural practices of the Navajo Nation, and other federally
14 recognized tribes who have a sincere sacred belief and a strong connection to the use
15 of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes only.

16
17 **NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED:**

- 18
19 A. The Navajo Nation hereby affirms its position to protect, preserve, and conserve the
20 sacred use of Azee' (peyote) by strongly opposing the decriminalization of peyote and
21 mescaline in the peyote in the states, local governments, and territories in the United
22 States of America.
- 23 B. The Navajo Nation hereby affirms its position to protect, preserve, and conserve the
24 sacred use of Azee' (peyote) by strongly opposing the decriminalization of 'synthetic
25 mescaline' and any development of therapeutic models that misappropriate or exploit
26 our Navajo culture and ceremonial practices, and other federally recognized tribal
27 customs in the states, local governments, and territories in the United States of
28 America.
- 29 C. The Navajo Nation hereby urges all states, local governments, and territories in the
30 United States to respectfully adhere to the Controlled Substances Act, where peyote
 and mescaline are classified as Schedule I Controlled Substances.

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- D. The Navajo Nation hereby urges all states, local governments, and territories in the United States to respectfully adhere to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.
- E. The Navajo Nation hereby urges the federal government to uphold its government-to-government trust responsibility and tribal consultation with the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Justice, the Department of Commerce, and the United States Department of Agriculture to ensure the full protection of peyote and its property of mescaline are protected and preserved for the Navajo people, and other federally recognized tribes in the United States.
- F. The Navajo Nation hereby urges the federal government through the United States Department of Justice to uphold its trust responsibility of the doctrine of federal preemption.
- G. The Navajo Nation urges the federal government to engage in private and public conservation programs to address peyote habitat preservation.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable George Tolth
Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake,
Ojo Encino, Counselor Chapters

FROM: Mariana Kahn
Mariana Kahn
Attorney, Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: June 21, 2024

SUBJECT: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION
RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE
DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE IN THE
STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES
TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

I prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government, however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees' powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction. If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like to make to the proposed resolution.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0131-24_

SPONSOR: George Tolth

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local, Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act

Date posted: June 24, 2024 at 3:46PM

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

Written comments may be mailed to:

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

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

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

**THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

LEGISLATION NO.: 0131-24

SPONSOR: Honorable George H. Tolth

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act

Posted: June 24, 2024 at 3:46 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: June 29, 2024

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Etta Arviso 2. Molina N. Redhorse 3. Brenda Fowler 4. Renda Fowler 5. Geraldine Clark 6. Native American Church State of New Mexico 7. Linda L. Thomas 8. Jo-el E. Thomas III 9. John E. Thomas
Comments Opposing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Azee' Bee Nahagha' of Dine Nation, Inc.
Comments/Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Native American Church of Shonto Arizona Inc. 2. Hershel Clark



Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services

July 01, 2024; 11:54 AM
Date/Time

Reply all | Delete Junk |

LEGISLATION NO 0131-24 SPONSOR : GEORGE TOLTH



Etta Arviso <
Thu 6/27, 11:29 AM
comments

Reply all |

Inbox

TO : NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE
THE 25TH NAVJO NATION COUNCIL'S
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES
P.O. BOX 3390 WINDOW ROCK AZ 86515

FROM :ETTA ARVISO ENROLLED MEMBER /CITIZEN OF
NAVAJO NATION OF INDIAN OF TREATY OF 1868
EASTERN NAVAJO COUNTRY AND TERRITORY
NEW MEXICO DINE'TAH

EMAIL :

DATE : JUNE 27,2024

SUBJECT : RELATING TO : NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE NO : 0131-24

THE 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL 2024 HONORABLE LEADER'S Naat' aanii's
WE ASK FOR YOU SUPPORT TO HELP STAND BY OUR DINE' PEOPLE ON NAVAJO NATION HOMELAND
IN SUPPORTING LEGISLATIVE NO :0131-24
OUR RELATIONSHIP RELATIVES HELD SO MANY MEETINGS TO STAND BY EACH OTHER'S TO PROTECT
THE OLDEST RELIGIOUS ,TRADITIONS THE USE OF Azee' PEYOTE CEREMONIAL Nahagha' CULTURAL
PURPOSES ONLY SACRED BELIEF ,AND ALOT OF OTHER INDIAN NATION S AND TRIBE'S THAT ARE
RECOGNIZED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, ALSO STAND BY EACH OTHER SACRED USE OF PEYOTE
BY STRONGLY OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF PROYOTE MESCALINE IN PEYOTE IN STATE'S
LOCAL GOVERNMENT,AND IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR PEOPLE TO VOICE TO PROTECT SCARED CEREMONIAL PRACTICES,
AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT AND THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT
TRUST RESPONSIBILITY WITH INDIAN NATION AND TRIBE CONSULTATION NEEDS TO BE RESPECTFUL
BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
AND WE ALL KNOW THAT MANY COURT CASE WAS WON AND MANY SACRIFICES HAPPEN TO WORSHIP
AND IT HELP DIFFERENT OTHER CHURCHES TO WORSHIP IN THERE CHURCH BELIEFS THROUGH OUT
UNTIED STATE'S ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND STATE'S
THAT THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1994,42 U.S.C / 1996 P.L.
103-344
AND HOPEFULLY YOU ALL SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATIVE NO : 0131-24 AND HELP EDUCATE EACH OTHER'S
TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER'S WITH PRAYERS
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP

THANK YOU
ETTA ARVISO ,MOTHER ,GRANDMOTHER.,AUNT,SISTER
Ahe'he'e

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

**NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF WHITEMESA NATURAL ARCH
OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

June 27, 2024

To: 25th Navajo Nation Council
All Concerned Navajo Nation Council Standing Committee's

My name is Molina N. Redhorse. I am an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation. I appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council moving the legislation titled:

An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee: Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

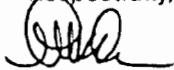
Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of **peyote and mescaline**.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

I encourage the 25th Navajo Nation Council to oppose any attempt from the psychedelic, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest to patent, trademark, claim as a trade secret, or copyright peyote and all properties, including mescaline. I strongly encourage the inclusion of peyote and mescaline within the proposed legislation.

I support and appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council's leadership in protecting our Navajo Way of Life. I respectfully request that you pass the proposed legislation. Ahé hee. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Molina N. Redhorse
Member

Post Office

T

Email:

**NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF WHITEMESA NATURAL ARCH
OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

June 27, 2024

To: 25th Navajo Nation Council
All Concerned Navajo Nation Council Standing Committee's

My name is Brenda Fowler. I am an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation. I appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council moving the legislation titled:

An Action Relating to Naabik 'iyáti' Committee: Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

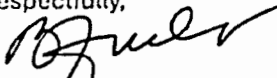
Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of **peyote and mescaline**.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

I encourage the 25th Navajo Nation Council to oppose any attempt from the psychedelic, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest to patent, trademark, claim as a trade secret, or copyright peyote and all properties, including mescaline. I strongly encourage the inclusion of peyote and mescaline within the proposed legislation.

I support and appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council's leadership in protecting our Navajo Way of Life. I respectfully request that you pass the proposed legislation. Ahé hee. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Brenda Fowler
Vice President

Post Office :

Email:

**NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF WHITEMESA NATURAL ARCH
OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

June 27, 2024

Dear: 25th Navajo Nation Council AND
Respective Navajo Nation Council Standing Committee's

My name is Renda L. Fowler. I am an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation. I appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council moving the legislation titled:

An Action Relating to Naabik'iyátl' Committee; Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

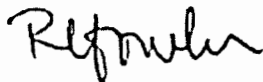
Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

I encourage the 25th Navajo Nation Council to oppose any attempt from the psychedelic, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest to patent, trademark, claim as a trade secret, or copyright peyote and all properties, including mescaline. I strongly encourage the inclusion of peyote and mescaline within the proposed legislation.

I support and appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council's leadership in protecting our Navajo Way of Life. I respectfully request that you pass the proposed legislation. Ahé hee. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Renda L. Fowler
President
NAC Whitemesa Natural Arch of North America Inc.

Post Office Box

Email:

June 25, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Geraldine Clark. I am an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation. I appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council moving the legislation titled, *An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local, Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.*

In 1994, Congress passed H.R. 4230 to amend the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1978), known as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994 (AIRFAA), to provide protected use of peyote to be used in bona-fide traditional ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of traditional Indian religion by federally recognized tribes. I understand the Congressional intent in passing AIRFAA is to protect the use of peyote and all properties within the peyote, including "mescaline." The substance, mescaline, holds a profound connection to the spiritual and ceremonial use of peyote for many of our Navajo people, including other federally recognized tribes. Due to limited resources to regulate the protection of peyote and its property mescaline, loopholes have surfaced, including peyote and mescaline decriminalization efforts at state and federal levels. This is due to the pirating efforts by pharmaceutical, private, and psychedelic interests.

Today, the psychedelic renaissance, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest in peyote and mescaline have caused serious concerns regarding the violation of federal laws and Navajo Codes, AIRFAA, the Drug Abuse Control Act Amendments of 1965, 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Controlled Act of 1970, Navajo Bill of Rights, Title 17 of the Navajo Code (NOTE: peyote and mescaline recognized as a Controlled I Substance under federal and Navajo law and cannot be separated), which all protects the ceremonial use of peyote and its properties of mescaline to be used only in a bonafide traditional ceremonial and cultural purposes by federally recognized tribes. I encourage the 25th Navajo Nation Council to oppose any attempt from the psychedelic, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest to patent, trademark, claim as a trade secret, or copyright peyote and all properties, including mescaline. I strongly encourage the inclusion of mescaline within the proposed legislation.

I support and appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council's leadership in protecting our Navajo Way of Life. I respectfully request that you pass the proposed legislation. Ahé hee. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Geraldine Clark

Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation and Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition



NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH
STATE of NEW MEXICO
364 Navajo Route, Tree Meadows
Shiprock, New Mexico 87420

June 30, 2024

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, Arizona

Submitted via email to: comments@navajo-nsn.gov

SUBJECT: NAC-SNM Comment Letter re: Resolution No. 0131-24

Dear Honorable Naat'áaniis of Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the
25th Navajo Nation Council,

Ya'at'eeh Naat'áaniis. Native American Church – State of New Mexico (NAC-SNM) submits this letter of support regarding Resolution No. 0131-24 as described below. We acknowledge and appreciate Council Delegate Tolth for serving as the primary sponsor of Resolution No. 0131-24, and we ask that you support this Resolution.

Resolution No. 0131-24 was considered by the NAC-SNM as it relates to our mission and ongoing work. For the reasons outlined below, the NAC-SNM fully supports the Navajo Nation's proposed position to urge adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act and the 1994 Amendments, and Peyote habitat protection and supports the proposed position opposing the decriminalization of the use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local Governments, and the United States Territories.

NAC-SNM leadership is diligent about engaging the Next Gen as many Next Gen members were born before passage of landmark legislation: the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 and the 1994 Amendments to that Act. This constituent base is comprised of next generation Native American Church members who are 44 years or younger. "Our knowledge about the historical background that led up to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 and Amendments of 1994, and the teachings of our elders position us to engage in an informed fashion. We are the leaders of today who can take part in shaping the narrative," said Next Gen Committee. They further state that it "is our hope to frame the conversation and advocacy to protect Peyote as

June 30, 2024

Page 2

NAC-SNM Comment Letter

a Medicine and a Sacrament.” We acknowledge that both the United States Congress and the courts have treated the Peyote ceremony as a bona fide ceremonial practice entitled to protection. Thus, to us, it appears that AIRFA 1978 and the 1994 Amendments are the beacons of hope to protect the Peyote way of life. They are the pillars that guide a (1) call for the federal government to exert federal preemption to block state and local government actions that impede and circumvent long standing indigenous ceremonies and (2) advance the collective rights of Native People to practice their ceremonies.

Honorable Naat’áaniis, we exhort you to cast an affirmative vote for Resolution No. 0131-24 as submitted by Council Delegate Tolth. Your affirmative vote will be consistent with the Coalition of Large Tribes’ (COLT) position on this issue – of which the Navajo Nation is a member. On March 9, 2024 COLT Chairman Marvin Weatherwax and COLT Secretary Crystalyne Curley signed a resolution affirming that “COLT has long championed [protections] including, for example, opposing legalization of mescaline, as indistinguishable from peyote, because such legalization would decimate traditional Native American Church practitioners’ access to peyote through over-harvesting.”

Ahe’hee for the opportunity to comment.

/s/ Leo Dayish, President, NAC-SNM Board

/s/ Next Gen Committee

LINDA L. THOMAS

Post Office Box

Email:

June 27, 2024

Dear: Honorable 25TH Navajo Nation Council
And respective Navajo Nation Council Standing Committee's

My name is Linda L. Thomas. I am an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation. I appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council moving the legislation titled:

An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local, Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

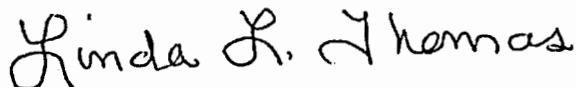
Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of **peyote and mescaline**.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

I encourage the 25th Navajo Nation Council to oppose any attempt from the psychedelic, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest to patent, trademark, claim as a trade secret, or copyright peyote and all properties, including mescaline. I strongly encourage the inclusion of peyote and mescaline within the proposed legislation.

I support and appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council's leadership in protecting our Navajo Way of Life. I respectfully request that you pass the proposed legislation. Ahé hee. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Linda L. Thomas
Navajo Nation Member

JO-EL E. THOMAS III

Post Office

Email:

June 27, 2024

Dear 25TH Navajo Nation Council and
Respective Navajo Nation Council Standing Committee's

My name is Jo-El E. Thomas III. I am an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation. I appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council moving the legislation titled:

An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local, Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

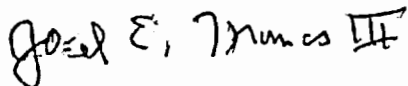
Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of **peyote and mescaline**.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

I encourage the 25th Navajo Nation Council to oppose any attempt from the psychedelic, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest to patent, trademark, claim as a trade secret, or copyright peyote and all properties, including mescaline. I strongly encourage the inclusion of peyote and mescaline within the proposed legislation.

I support and appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council's leadership in protecting our Navajo Way of Life. I respectfully request that you pass the proposed legislation. Ahé hee. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Jo-El E. Thomas III.
Navajo Nation Member

John E. Thomas
Post Office

Email:

June 27, 2024

**25TH Navajo Nation Council
And respective Navajo Nation Council Standing Committee's**

My name is John E. Thomas. I am an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation. I appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council moving the legislation titled:

An Action Relating to Naabik 'iyáti' Committee; Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local, Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of **peyote and mescaline**.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

I encourage the 25th Navajo Nation Council to oppose any attempt from the psychedelic, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest to patent, trademark, claim as a trade secret, or copyright peyote and all properties, including mescaline. I strongly encourage the inclusion of peyote and mescaline within the proposed legislation.

I support and appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council's leadership in protecting our Navajo Way of Life. I respectfully request that you pass the proposed legislation. Ahé hee. Thank you.

Respectfully,



John E. Thomas
Navajo Nation Member

Reply all | Delete Junk |

Comment NN Legislation 0131-24 Opposing Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline



R J
Thu 6/27, 12:00 AM
comments

Reply all |

Inbox

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the members of the Azee' Bee Nahagha' of Dine' Nation, Inc. (ABNDN) respectfully Opposes Legislation 0131-24 sponsored by Honorable Delagates Tolth, Simpson, and Nez Begay.

ABNDN was never given a proper consultation or work session from any of the sponsors. The people, registered voters, have the right to be informed of issues for effective legislation. The people, registered voters, have the right to proper input, consultation and presentation from their government leaders.

Legislation 0131-24 failed to exhibit any supporting resolutions. The majority of the peyote organizations on the Navajo Nation has not openly supported this legislation.

The members of ABNDN humbly ask the 25th Navajo Nation Council to consider our connection to the Azee (peyote) for healing, progress, and wellness of our Dine people. Our ceremonies and medicine (Azee) are sacred and have to be protected for the people. The people make the government, the government needs to follow proper proceeding to ensure transparency and consultation.

Again, the sponsors of this legislation should consider every member's input, not the just the few or outside interest.

God Bless,
Rueben Jim
ABNDN Pres.

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Reply all | Delete Junk |

NACShonto Position Resolution



Elroy Watson

Thu 6/27, 6:53 AM

comments

Reply all |

Inbox

NACShonto Position Re...

51 KB

1 attachments (51 KB) Download

Dear Comment Committee,

My name is Elroy Watson, I am a life time Native American Church participant. I am the Native American Church of Shonto Arizona, Inc. President. Our church is within the Navajo Nation boundary. Our church is registered with the State of Arizona as a non profit. NAC of Shonto AZ, Inc. is an affiliated chapter with the Native American Church of North America (NACNA).

Please accept our Church's position resolution dated January 18, 2020 to the NACNA. We continue our efforts by providing our Church's position to your comment committee. I appreciate your time and request for positions on decriminalization. I am providing my cell number for questions you may have on the attached document at

You are welcome to use the email address for reply at your discretion.

Respectfully,

Mr. E. Watson

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Sent from my iPad

Date: January 18, 2020

The Native American Church of Shonto, Arizona Inc. submits its resolution for its position to the Native American Church of North America's Executive Officers, Delegate at Large and Affiliated Chapters in regards to Indigenous Peyote Conservative Initiative affiliation resolution proposed at the NACNA 2019 Convention. This includes its position with other pharmaceutical psychedelic research initiative present and in the future. The Native American Church of Shonto, Arizona Inc., has proposed and approved this resolution by a quorum of its membership at its duly called meeting on January 18, 2020.

Whereas, the Native American Church of Shonto Arizona Inc., is in good standing as an affiliated chapter of the Native American Church of North America from June 2019 to June 2020.

Whereas, Native American Church of North American Bylaws, Section 2.. Eligibility Criteria A. 2. Be a member of an Indian Tribe pursuant to Public Law 103-344.

Whereas, Public Law 103-344, is also known as American Indian Religious Freedom Act 1994(AIRFA 1994).

Whereas, AIRFA 1994, Section 3. (5)(b)(2). "Notwithstanding any other provision of Law, the use, possession or transportation of peyote by an Indian for Bonafide traditional ceremonial purpose in connection with the practice of traditional Indian religion is lawful and shall not bear prohibited by the United States or."Public Law 130-344 {H.R.4239};October 6, 1994.

Whereas, the Health and Safety Code Chapter 481, Texas Controlled Substance Act. Section 481.111. Exemption, "(a) the provision of this chapter relating to the relating to the possession and distributing of peyote do not apply to the use of peyote by a member of the Native American Church in a bonafide religious ceremonies of the church,"

Whereas, the Health and Safety Code Chapter 481, Texas Controlled Substance Act. Section 481.111. Exemption, "An exemption granted to a member of the Native American Church under this section does not apply to a member with less than 25 percent Indian blood."

Whereas, Title 21 Code of Federal Regulation, PART 1307.31. Native American Church.

"The listing of peyote as a controlled substance in Schedule 1 does not apply for the non drug use of peyote in bonafide religious ceremonies of the Native American Church so using peyote are exempt from registration...."

Whereas, Indian Religion, “(3) the term ‘Indian religion’ means any religion...

Therefore let it:

Be Resolved, NACNA Bylaws 2016 Article 2 Mission Statement, “The purpose of this church will be to foster and promote religious belief in Almighty God and the customs of Native American Tribes throughout North American in worship to a Heavenly Father in promotion of morality, sobriety, industry, charity, right living, and the cultivation of a spirit of self respect, and brotherly love and union among its membership throughout North American. We as a people place explicit faith, hope and belief in Almighty God and declare full, competent and everlasting faith in our church , through which we worship for religion and then protection of the sacrament use of Peyote.”

Further Resolved, NACNA Bylaws 2016 Section 2 Eligibility Criteria, “ The Executive Committee Members and Affiliated Chapter Members shall meet one of the following eligibility criteria below:

1. Be at least one-quarter Native American Indian blood and have a treaty status number, tribal number, or census number; or
2. Be a member of an Indian Tribe, pursuant to Public Law 103-344. the term”Indian Tribe, band, Nation, Pueblo, or other organized group or community of Indians , including any Alaska Native village (as defined in, or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians; or
3. Be a recognized member of the First Nations of Canada or traditional Indian people of Mexico....

Further Resolved, NACNA Bylaws 2016 Section 3 Members Rights,
“A. A NACNA Member may inform, non-Indians that cannot participate and ingest the sacrament Peyote in a bonafide religious ceremony.

B. The Roadman or sponsor of a bonafide religious ceremony or an Affiliated Chapter NACNA member may notify local law enforcement of alleged non- compliance with Public Law 103-344 so that the NACNA member works to preserve and protects our Sacrament, Peyote, from use by non-Indians.

C. An NACNA member may contact the local law enforcement officials to report suspected use of illicit drugs in conjunction with NAC prayer services.

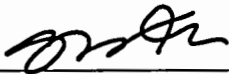
Certification

We, members of the Native American Church of Shonto Arizona Inc. hereby confirmed our church’s opposition to IPCI resolution for NACNA affiliation with the organization as participating member. This position includes all present and

future affiliation with pharmaceutical psychedelic research initiatives and decriminalization. We expect NACNA Executive Officers, Delegate at Large and Affiliated Chapters to use the Public Law 103-344, Texas HSC 481. 111 and Title 21 Code of Federal Regulation, PART 1307.31, to protect our Sacrament in its natural element and form as it was left for us by our elders for our future NACNA members.

Vote of: 21 in favor and 0 opposed to this resolution dated January 18, 2020.

Signed:



Native American Church of Shonto Arizona Inc. President

References:

103 H.R.J.Res 344, 108 Stat. 3126 (1994)

Health and Safety Code Chapter 481. Texas Controlled Substance Act (Vernon 1989)

21 C.F.R. Section 1307.31 (2020)

Native American Church of North America Bylaws. (2016). *Native American Church of North America Bylaws 2012-16*. Annual Convention 2016.

Reply all | Delete Junk |

"AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT.



Hershel Clark
Fri 6/28, 4:18 PM
comments

Reply all |

Inbox

0131 24 Peyote Legislati...
3 MB

Download

Good evening,

My name is Hershel Clark.

Title: Vice Chair of the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition

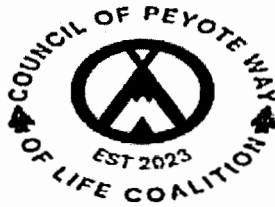
Address:

On behalf of the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition I am submitting a comment regarding the proposed legislation "AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT (**see attachment**). Thank you.

Hershel Clark,

Vice Chair, Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.



A SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF PEYOTE WAY OF LIFE COALITION (CPWLC) TO OPPOSE THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline AT THE STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES.

WHEREAS:

1. The CPWLC recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal levels to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways; and
2. The CPWLC recognizes Public Law 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, lists peyote and mescaline as a controlled substance; and
3. The CPWLC recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L. 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and
4. The CPWLC urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
5. The CPWLC recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
6. The CPWLC believes it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere, including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The CPWLC hereby opposes the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local governments, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
2. The CPWLC strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from peyote or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. The CPWLC requests the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

WE, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was duly considered by CPWLC at a duly called meeting in which a quorum was present and was passed by a vote of 25 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 1 Abstained on this 20th day of February 2024.

MOTION: Alburt Johnson

SECOND: Jane Jackson Bear

Frank Dayish
Frank Dayish, Chairperson

Hershel W. Clark
Hershel W. Clark, Vice Chairperson

VACANT, Treasurer

Ryan Sandoval
Ryan Sandoval, Secretary

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF FRANK DAYISH
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF PEYOTE WAY OF LIFE COALITION
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
MARCH 9, 2023

My name is Frank Dayish, Chairman of the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition. I'm also the former Vice President of the Navajo Nation and also a former United States Marine, and former President of the Native American Church of North America. On behalf of the Council, I am here to testify to express my serious concerns to the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the House of Representatives American Indian and Alaskan Native Public Witness Days regarding pharmaceutical companies' interest to appropriate "Heritage Molecules" in particular mescaline derived from peyote and to request funding for federally recognized tribes to protect and conserve land where peyote is grown in its natural habitat. Also, to request funding to implement the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994.

As a coalition of stakeholders representing the interest of Navajo peyote practitioners and Navajo peyote members, we are extremely alarmed and concerned of pharmaceutical companies' strong interest to appropriate mescaline derived from our sacred peyote medicine. Peyote is a sacred plant for the Navajo people, including many other federally recognized tribes throughout the country. Navajo people, including other American Indians, were historically persecuted, and prosecuted for their ceremonial use of peyote for more than a century. Many tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal levels to achieve their right to use peyote within their respected traditional ceremonies and cultural ways.

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 protects the rights of American Indians to exercise their traditional way of life by ensuring access to sites, use, and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonies and traditional rites. Furthermore, P.L. 103-344 the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994 provided that "the use, possession, or transportation of peyote by an Indian for bona fide traditional ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of a traditional Indian religion is lawful and shall not be prohibited by the United States or any State." Therefore, the use of peyote is federally protected and should only be used by a federally recognized tribal member.

I am deeply concerned by Journey Colab and other pharmaceutical companies who applied for "patents" and Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approval to synthesize mescaline and offer corresponding proprietary therapy for the treatment of addiction and other mental health disorders. I understand Journey Colab claims to have engaged in a consultation with Indigenous communities and individuals who use peyote. However, they never consulted with the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition organization, 5 D Native American Church of Chiltah of New Mexico, Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation, Diné Native American Church of New Mexico, including many Navajo peyote organizations throughout Navajo Nation. Most importantly no consultation was completed with the Navajo Nation where thousands of peyote members reside.

The Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition strongly opposes any extraction and synthesis of mescaline from peyote, and any cultivation, tincture, or manufacturing for scientific purposes (research), or for any other reasons outside of a traditional bona fide ceremonial setting or purposes. In addition, we oppose the decriminalization of peyote and stress peyote should be used for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes by a federally recognized member only, as protected under federal law.

Tribal Nations have a unique relation with the United States based on Indian Treaties, U.S. Congressional Acts, U.S. Supreme Court Decrees, Executive Orders, and memorandums which are considered the supreme law of the United States. Therefore, our focus is to leverage public awareness regarding this serious concern by making sure Tribal Nations' unique government-to-government relationship is upheld with respect and honor. We strongly believe this can be achieved, in part, by support from your committee.

In closing, the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition appreciates the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the House of Representatives American Indian and Alaskan Native Public Witness Days for allowing me to express our concerns regarding pharmaceutical companies' interest to appropriate our Peyote Way of Life and to request funding to protect and conserve land where peyote is grown in its natural habitat. Also, to request funding to implement the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Frank Dayish

Frank Dayish,
Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition, Chairman



AZEE' BEE NAHAGHA OF DINE NATION, Inc.
P.O. Box 1570 Chinle, Arizona 86503

Willie Tracey Jr., President
Albert Johnson, Vice President

Victoria Woody, Treasurer
Revyanna Harvey, Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE AZEE' BEE NAHAGHA OF DINE NATION, Inc.

**Respectfully Approving and Recommending the Navajo Nation Council to Oppose the
National Peyote Decriminalization**

WHEREAS:

1. Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation, Inc. (ABNDN Inc.) is governed by Board of Directors as provided for in its Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws; and
2. The Native American Church of Navajoland, Inc. (NACNL Inc.), now known as ABNDN Inc. was established on June 11, 1966 as a non-profit organization, was incorporated within the State of New Mexico on May 15, 1972 and in December 1989, the Advisory Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council granted a Revocable Land Use Permit (Mission Site) for NACNL comprising of ten (10) acres of Navajo Nation Trust land at Chinle, Arizona; and
3. ABNDN, Inc. is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting its membership while making appropriate delicate decisions as deem necessary and to make recommendation to various agencies while seeking resources; and
4. ABNDN recognizes the Azeé (Peyote) plant to be sacred among the Navajo people; and
5. ABNDN recognizes Azeé (Peyote) has been consumed by Navajo people for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes since time in immemorial; and
6. ABNDN recognizes certain lands in the Southwest part of Texas and in Northern Mexico are cultural places of significant importance where Azeé (Peyote) plant grows in its aboriginal habitat; and
7. ABNDN recognizes the number of Azeé (Peyote) plants has decreased in recent years, threatening the long-term sustainability of the Azeé (Peyote) aboriginal habitats or populations, and depleting the number of Azeé (Peyote) that could be available for future generations; and
8. ABNDN recognizes the personal and corporate cultivation of the Azeé (Peyote) plant threatens the historical, cultural, and biological integrity of the plant by potentially exposing the population to hybridization, genetic modification, and sterilization, all of which is in violation of Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994); and
9. ABNDN recognizes the movement to decriminalize Azeé (Peyote) use directly threatens the availability of Azeé (Peyote) and integrity of the ceremonial use of Azeé (Peyote) for Navajo people, including other Indigenous peoples, and would be contrary to the doctrine of

federal preemption, whereby federal law supersedes state law in this area (under Public Law 103-344 AIRFA of 1994).

10. ABNDN recognizes the decriminalization of Azeé (Peyote) consumption beyond the already hundreds of thousands of federally recognized tribes and other Indigenous peoples, including Navajo people, will create a demand and market for Azeé (Peyote) that further threatens the existing aboriginal inhabitants.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. ABNDN opposes the decriminalization of Azeé (Peyote). Usage should be only "by a federally enrolled tribal citizen who uses Azeé (Peyote) in a bona fide traditional ceremony.

2. ABNDN opposes the extraction and synthesis of mescaline, and any cultivation, tincture, or manufacturing for scientific purposes (research), or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.

3. ABNDN hereby requests to protect and preserve Azeé (Peyote) strictly used for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes by the Navajo people, as protected under federal law.

4. ABNDN hereby requests Navajo leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life and the lands in which they reside within its natural aboriginal habitat.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the ABNDN, Inc. Executive Officials and Board of Directors at a duly called meeting at Chinle, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 11 in favor, 00 opposed and 01 abstained, this 16th day of April, 2022.

MOTION: Justin Dale

SECOND: Richard Monroe

Willie Tracey, Jr. President

Albert Johnson, Vice President

Melinda Nakai, Protemp Secretary

Victoria Woolly, Treasurer



THE DINÉ NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF NEW MEXICO, INC.

P.O. Box 31
Thoreau, New Mexico 87323



Jasper Pablo, Chairperson
Edward B. Henry Jr., Vice-Chairperson
Glenda Charleston, Board Secretary
Fern Spencer, Board Member
Lavern Spencer, Board Member

Linberg Bijah, Board Member
Thompson Johnson, Board Member
Carmelita Daka, Alternate Board Member
Vacant, Alternate Board Member
Lawrence Largo, Senior Spiritual Advisor

Wesley Desiderio Sr., Administrator/Consultant — Elsie Yazzie, Account Specialist — Trina Martinez, Record Custodian — Lewis R. Jim, Statutory Agent
AA-Alberta Shawnah, Area One — AA- "Vacant", Area Two, AA — Lucille Begay, Area Four, AA-Dolores R. Livingston, Area Four — AA- Vera Castillo, Area Five
AA- Jessica P. Platero/Elsie Yazzie, Area Six

**A SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BY THE DINÉ NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF NEW MEXICO, INC. TO OPPOSE THE
DECriminalIZATIO OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AN MescalINE AT THE STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND UNITED
STATES TERROITORIES.**

WHEREAS:

1. The TDNACNM, Inc. recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal state and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azéé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways; and
2. The TDNACNM, Inc. recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L. 103-355) American Indian Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIFRA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and,
3. The TDNACNM, Inc. urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
4. The TDNACNM, Inc. recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the U.S., state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
5. The TDNACNM, Inc. believes it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline effort in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous people across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The TDNACNM, Inc. hereby opposes the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local government, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIFRA of 1994.
2. The TDNACNM, Inc. strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote, and cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from peyote plant, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bona-fide ceremonial setting purpose.
3. The TDNACNM, Inc. request the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was approved by the TDNACNM, Inc. at a duly called meeting at Linberg Bijah's Resident, Crownpoint, NM at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained, the 11th day of June 2023.



RESOLUTION
OF THE
EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL
THE NAVAJO NATION

No. ENAC-06-2023-121

A SUPPORTING THE OPPOSITION OF THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline AT THE STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES

WHEREAS:

1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council is established under the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation and certified by Resolution IGRS-251-01; and
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 103 (D) (4), the Eastern Navajo Agency Council, a consortium of elected Chapter Officials representing thirty-one (31) certified Navajo Nation Chapters, agree to address and undertake common goals and interests for the benefit of the Eastern Navajo Agency Chapters; and
3. Pursuant 2 N.N.C SECTION: 4028; the Eastern Navajo Agency Council is vested with government authority to review all matters affecting the community to make the most appropriate recommendations when necessary to the Navajo Nation, County, State, Federal, and other local agencies; and
4. Eastern Navajo Agency Council recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways; and
5. Eastern Navajo Agency Council recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and
6. Eastern Navajo Agency Council urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
7. Eastern Navajo Agency Council recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the U.S. state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
8. Eastern Navajo Agency Council believes it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

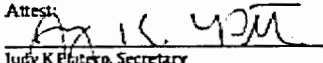
1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council hereby supports the opposition of the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local governments, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
2. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote, and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from the peyote plant, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. The Eastern Navajo Agency Council requests the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

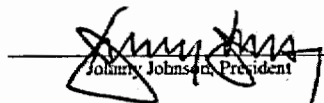
CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was approved by the Eastern Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting Baca Chapter, Prewitt, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 47 in favor, 00 opposed, 09 abstained, this 03rd day of June 3, 2023.

Motion: Alva Tom
Second: Betsy Dennison

Attest:


Judy K Fletchero, Secretary


Johnny Johnson, President

WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION
NNVA Western Navajo Agency Office
Tuba City, AZ 86045
April 18, 2023

Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization Resolution No: WNAVO- 23-108-01
A RESOLUTION OF WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF AZEÉ (PEYOTE) AND MESCALINE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND FOR ALL GOVERNMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT THE USE OF PEYOTE IN A BONIFIED RELIGIOUS CEREMONY AS STATED IN AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT AMENDMENT OF 1994.

WHEREAS:

1. The Western Navajo Agency Veterans' Organization (WNAVO) is established to advocate for eighteen (18) within Western Navajo Agency of Navajo Nation and has the responsibilities of representing Chapter Veterans' Organizations; and
2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJA-3-16, the Western Navajo Veteran Administration and Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council were established and amending 2 N.N.C. §1703 and 1704. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is the oversight authority over the Administration and Advisory Council; and
3. Azeé (Peyote) is used by many Navajo and other Indigenous peoples and is part of the cultural and ceremonial practices as protected by Federal Law; and
4. American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendment of 1994 protects the use of peyote "by a federally enrolled tribal citizen in a bonafide ceremony traditional ceremony"; and
5. Public Law 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 lists peyote and mescaline as controlled substances; and
6. The national decriminalization movement is to lessen the laws for substances and plants that have mescaline for research and extraction, genetic modification in violation of Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994); and
7. Journey Co-Lab, a pharmaceutical company has applied to the Federal Drug Administration for a patent for mescaline; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Western Navajo Veterans Organization opposes the decriminalization of Azeé (Peyote); the extraction and synthesis of mescaline, and any cultivation, tincture, or manufacturing for scientific research.
2. Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization opposes Journey Co-Lab, other pharmaceutical and research companies and entities genetic modification, synthetic mescaline, and the extraction of mescaline from peyote.
3. Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization requests all governments in the United States to protect the use of peyote "by a federally enrolled tribal citizen who uses Azeé (Peyote) in a bona fide traditional ceremony" as protected by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendment of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization at a duly called meeting at Tuba City, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 9 In Favor 0 Opposed 4 Abstained on 18 April 2023.

Motion: Leslie Dole Second: Gray McCubane
Commander Bill Goodman [Signature] Vice-Commander Leslie Dole [Signature]
Secretary Gabriella Mohl [Signature]



**THE NAVAJO NATION
TOHATCHI COMMUNITY CHAPTER**

Post Office Box 287 Tohatchi, New Mexico 87335 Tel: (505) 733-2845/2846 FAX: (505) 733-2847

Harry "Sonny" Moore, Jr. W. Mike Halona Jean Crawford Gerald Moore Nathan Notah
Chapter President Chapter Vice-President Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Grazing Official Council Delegate

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOHATCHI CHAPTER
SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BY THE TOHATCHI DINE' NATIVE
AMERICAN CHURCH TO OPPOSE THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE
USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline AT THE STATES, LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS, AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES" LED BY THE
COUNCIL OF PEYOTE WAY OF LIFE COALITION.**

WHEREAS:

TOH: 086-10-2024

1. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C., Section 3 (A) the Tohatchi 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) Tohatchi 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 Tohatchi Dine' Native American Church of New Mexico recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways; and
4. The Tohatchi Dine' Native American Church of New Mexico recognizes Public Law 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, lists peyote and mescaline as a controlled substance; and
6. The Tohatchi Dine' Native American Church of New Mexico recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L. 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and
7. The Tohatchi Dine' Native American Church of New Mexico urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
8. The Tohatchi Dine' Native American Church of New Mexico recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the U.S. state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
9. The Tohatchi Dine' Native American Church of New Mexico believes it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Tohatchi Dine' Native American Church of New Mexico hereby opposes the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local governments, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
2. The Tohatchi Dine' Native American Church of New Mexico strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote, and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from the peyote plant, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. The Tohatchi Dine' Native American Church of New Mexico requests the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Tohatchi Chapter of the Navajo Nation (New Mexico) at a duly special called meeting at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 19 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained, this 18th Day of October 2023.

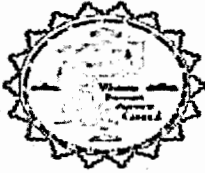
MOTION: Shirley Chato

SECOND: Tammy Bitsilly



Mr. Harry "Sonny" Moore, Jr.
Chapter President

October 19, 2023
Date



WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

GERALD KEETSO ROLAND SMALLCANYON CANDIS YAZZIE



WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: WNAC23-06-NB8

SUPPORTING AND APPROVING THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ENTITLED "A SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BY THE WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL TO OPPOSE THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE AT THE STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES" LED BY THE COUNCIL OF PEYOTE WAY OF LIFE COALITION.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to CMY-23-79, the Western Navajo Agency Council is a consortium of duly elected Chapter Officials of the Navajo Nation vested with authority and responsibilities to provide and enact on all matters affecting their respective communities; and
2. Pursuant to CAP-34-98, the Navajo Nation Council approved the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act (LGA) that allows Western Navajo Agency Council to make decisions over common matters; and
3. The Western Navajo Agency Council recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways; and
4. The Western Navajo Agency Council recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L. 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and
5. The Western Navajo Agency Council urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
6. The Western Navajo Agency Council recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the U.S. state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
7. The Western Navajo Agency Council believes it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the
8. Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

Birdsprings - Bodaway/Gay - Cameron - Chizhizheto - Coalmine - Coppermine - Denehoteo -
 Kalbeto - Kayenta - LeChee - Leupp - Navajo Mountain - Ojato - Shonto - Tolani Lake -
 Tówaneesdizi - Tonalea - Ts'ah Mii' Nii



WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL

GERALD KEETSO ROLAND SMALLCANYON CANDIS YAZZIE



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Western Navajo Agency Council hereby opposes the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local governments, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
2. The Western Navajo Agency Council strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote, and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from the peyote plant, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. The Western Navajo Agency Council requests the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

WE, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was duly considered by Western Navajo Agency Council, Navajo Nation, Arizona at a duly called Agency Council Meeting which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 21 In Favor, 0 Opposed, 4 Abstained on this 17th day of June, 2023.

MOTION: Dellard Curley

SECOND: Angie Williams

Gerald Keetso
Gerald Keetso, President

Roland Smallcanyon
Roland Smallcanyon, Vice-President

Candis Yazzie
Candis Yazzie, Secretary

Birdsprings - Hodayay/Gap - Cameron - Chichinbeto - Coalmine - Coppermine - Eennehatsso -
Kaibeto - Kayenta - InChee - Leupp - Navajo Mountain - Clifato - Shonto - Toloni Lake -
TóNaneestizi - Tonales - Ts'ah Bii' Nii.



PROCLAMATION

ADDRESSING & OPPOSING

The Decriminalization of Peyote

WHEREAS, the President of the Navajo Nation represents the Navajo Nation in relations with outside governments. 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (B); and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation has a nation-to-nation relationship with the United States of America, memorialized in our Treaty of 1849 (signed September 9, 1849, and proclaimed September 24, 1850, 9 Stat. 9745) and our Treaty of 1868 (signed June 1, 1868, and proclaimed August 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667); and

WHEREAS, the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes by Navajo people is one of the oldest religious traditions in the Western Hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, peyote is a slow-growing cactus plant that takes approximately ten or more years to grow from a seed to a mature plant to be consumed; and

WHEREAS, peyote is only grown in the southwestern part of Texas and parts of Mexico and is drastically declining due to climate change, land conversion, land development, ranching, agriculture, poaching, non-Indian psychedelic tourism, incorrect harvesting, and other alarming factors; and

WHEREAS, Navajo Nation religious practices use the largest amount of natural peyote in the country, and Navajo religious practices will be severely impacted by the drastic decline in naturally-occurring peyote; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 protects the rights of Native Americans to exercise their traditional religions by ensuring access to sites, use, and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonies and traditional rites; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994 provide for the use, possession, or transportation of peyote by an Indian for bona fide traditional ceremonial purposes; and

WHEREAS, peyote is classified as a Schedule I controlled substance under the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, and is specifically exempted for religious, ceremonial, and cultural use only by Navajo people and members of other federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo people were historically persecuted and prosecuted for their ceremonial use of peyote for more than a century and had to fight numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal levels to achieve the right to use peyote in accordance with their respected religious, ceremonial, and cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation seeks to ensure full protection of the rights and well-being of the Navajo people, including their fundamental right to free exercise of religious, ceremonial and cultural beliefs and their related use of peyote pursuant to the Navajo Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation has serious concerns regarding the proposed use of peyote by non-Indians currently in violation of federal laws — including the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 1994 and the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970—that protect the religious, ceremonial, and cultural practices of peyote (mescaline, derived from the peyote cactus), for the Navajo people.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dr. Buu Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation, hereby proclaim:

1. That Steven Benally serves as an advisor to the Office of the President and Vice President on the traditional uses of peyote; and
2. The Navajo Nation reaffirms its position to protect, preserve, and conserve the sacred use of peyote (*Azeé*) by the Navajo people as set forth in the Navajo Bill of Rights and the Navajo Nation Criminal Code, and as protected by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, its Amendments of 1994, and the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970; and

3. The Navajo Nation opposes the decriminalization of peyote for the general public, as this will further endanger the naturally occurring availability of the cactus plant and substantially affect the religious, ceremonial, and cultural practices of the Navajo Nation and its people who have a sincere sacred belief and strong connection to the use of peyote for religious, ceremonial and cultural purposes; and
4. All states, local governments, and United States territories should respectfully adhere to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, its Amendments of 1994, and the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (also known as the Controlled Substances Act) to protect, preserve, and conserve the sacred use of peyote; and
5. All states, local governments, and United States territories should work in partnership with the Navajo Nation and other impacted tribal nations and communities to engage in conservation programs to address peyote habitat preservation and mitigate the drastic decline of the naturally occurring cactus plant.

SO ORDERED THIS 3RD DAY OF NOVEMBER IN THE YEAR 2023



Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION



**5D Ranch Native American Church of New Mexico, Inc.
Chichiltah, New Mexico 87301
May 2, 2023**

5D Native American Church of New Mexico, Inc. Resolution 5DNAC 04282023

Resolution of 5D NAC of New Mexico, is opposing the Decriminalization of Peyote and Mescaline for scientific research and for all governments in the United States to protect the use of peyote in a bona fide religious ceremony as stated in American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendment of 1994.

WHEREAS:

1. 5D Native American Church of New Mexico, Inc. is recognized by the State of New Mexico and does not support decriminalization of peyote; and
2. 5D Native American Church of New Mexico, Inc. respects Peyote is used by many Navajos and other Federal Recognized Tribes and is part of the Cultural and Ceremonial practices as protected by Federal Law; and
3. 5D Native American Church of New Mexico, Inc. recognizes the Public Law 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 lists peyote and mescaline as a Controlled Substances; and
4. 5D Native American Church of New Mexico, Inc. further recognizes the national decriminalization movement is to lessen the laws for substances and plants that have mescaline for research and extraction, genetic modification in violation of Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994(AIRFA 1994).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. 5D Native American Church of New Mexico, Inc. strongly oppose the decriminalization of peyote and extraction and synthesis of mescaline, and any cultivation, tincture, or manufacturing for scientific research.
2. 5D Native American Church of New Mexico, Inc. requests all governments in United States to protect the use peyote "by Federally enrolled Tribal Citizen who uses peyote in a bona fide traditional ceremony" as protected by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendment of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 5D Native American Church of New Mexico, Inc. at a duly called meeting in Gallup, New Mexico at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained on April 28, 2023.

Motion by: Nelson Begay

Seconded by: Calvin Charlie



**A SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BY AZEÉ BEE NAHAGHÁ OF DINÉ NATION (ABNDN) INC.
DISTRICT 7 AND 5 TO OPPOSE THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND
MESCALINE AT THE STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES**

WHEREAS:

1. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 are both a local district of ABNDN recognized and certified with authority and responsibility to act in the best interest of its members on matters pertaining to the protection and preservation of our sacred Azeé (Peyote); and
2. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways; and
3. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 recognizes Title 17 of the Navajo Code lists peyote and mescaline as a controlled substance, and provides authorization for Navajo people to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and
4. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 recognizes Public Law 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 lists peyote and mescaline as a controlled substance; and
5. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L. 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and
6. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
7. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the U.S. state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
8. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 believe it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

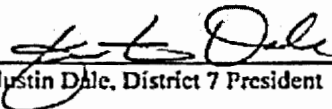
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 hereby opposes the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local governments, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

2. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote, and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from the peyote plant, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. The ABNDN District 7 and 5 requests the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994 and Public Law 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970.

CERTIFICATION

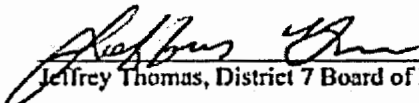
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was approved by the ABNDN District 7 and 5 at a duly called meeting at Seba Dalkai, Navajo Nation (AZ) at which a quorum was present and was passed by a vote of 25 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstained, this 16th day of July 2023.



Justin Dale, District 7 President

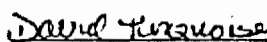
Lyle Logg, District 7 Vice President


Darlene Shone, District 7 Treasurer


Matilda Johnson, District 7 Secretary


Jeffrey Thomas, District 7 Board of Director


Richard Monroe, District 5 Board of Director


David Turquoise, District 5 President


Lula Monroe, District 5 Secretary



Bahast'ah Veterans Organization

Ryan Sandoval, Commander / Myles Lytle, Vice Commander
Secretary: Kimberly J. Hill



**RESOLUTION OF BAHAST'AH VETERANS COMMITTEE DOES NOT SUPPORT THE
DECriminalIZATION OF PEYOTE MEDICINE, and SUPPORT HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR IN THE PROTECTION AN USAGE OF THE SACRED PEYOTE
IN A BONIFIED RELIGIOUS CEREMONY**

Whereas:

1. Bahast'ah Veterans Committee is Officially recognized by the Bahast'ah Chapter, Bahast'ah Veterans Committee does not support Decriminalization of Peyote.
2. Bahast'ah Veterans Committee does not support the Decriminalization of sacred medicine Peyote by pharmaceutical company, " Journey Colab". The sacred Peyote is a Bonified Religious Ceremony and recognized by the Native American Religious Freedom Act, "P.L. 103-344, 1994. Furthermore, the Bahast'ah Veterans Committee is in support of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior in the protection of usage of the Sacred Peyote in a Bonified Religious Ceremony

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:


1. An Action relating to the Bahast'ah Veterans Committee herby approves this Resolution in opposing the Decriminalization of Sacred Peyote, and in support of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior protection of Peyote Medicine.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

The Bahast'ah Veterans Committee Herby Certifies the Forgoing Resolution that was Considered at Bahast'ah Veterans Meeting at Twin Lakes New Mexico (Navajo Nation) and that same was approved and passed with a vote of 10 in Favor; 0 Opposed, and 6 Abstain on the 5th day of March 2023.

Motion by: Virginia Johnson

Second by: Irene Franklin


Ryan Sandoval, Commander
Bahast'ah Veterans Organization, (Twin Lakes)



**FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS
AGENCY MEETING**

P.O. Box 430

Window Rock, Arizona, 86515

Phone: (928) 871-6413 Fax: (928) 871-7288.

Commander: Ryan Sandoval Vice Commander: Cassandra Morgan Secretary: Clara Williams

RESOLUTION OF THE FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

**AN ACTION RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER, HEALTH
EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, NAAHKA'YATI COMMITTEE,
AND 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL., FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY
VETERANS ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION FROM
BAHASTL'AH TWIN LAKES VETERANS ORGANIZATION OF THE
OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE PEYOTE.**

FD-003-2023

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to The Navajo Nation Veterans Act; Title II, Section One (E,I,M,N,O,R,T); SS 1032 (B-5,9,10), The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation through resolution of the Veterans Agency; and
2. The Fort Defiance Agency Veteran Organizations which consist of twenty- six Chapter Veterans Organizations is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation with a Plan of Operation to address the issues, concerns and advocate for all Navajo Veterans; and
3.
 - (E) The legislation also establishes a Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council to recognize veterans and ENSURE VETERAN PARTICIPATION IN POLICY and data system development; and
 - (M) there is a need to ENSURE THAT NAVAJO VETERANS HAVE DIRECT INVOLEMENT IN POLICY MAKING DECISIONS REGARDING VETERAN SERVICES AND BENEFITS; and
 -

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE BAHASTL'AH TWIN LAKES VETERANS ORGANIZATION DOES NOT SUPPORT THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF PEYOTE MEDICINE, DOES NOT SUPPORT THE USAGE OF PEYOTE AS A FORM OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STUDIES DESECRATION OF THE BONIFIED RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES. DOES SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION PROTECTION AND USAGE OF THE SACRED PEYOTE IN A BONIFIED RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES.**



**FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS
AGENCY MEETING**

P.O. Box 430

Window Rock, Arizona, 86515

Phone: (928) 871-6413 Fax: (928) 871-7288.

Commander: Ryan Sandoval

Vice Commander: Cassandra Morgan

Secretary: Clara Williams

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

The Fort Defiance Agency Veteran Organizations, Herby Certifies the Foregoing Resolution that was Considered at a Special Duly Called Meeting at the Window Rock, Arizona, (Navajo Nation) and that same was approved and passed with a vote of 38 In Favor; 0 Opposed and 1 Abstain on the 7th day of April 2023.

Motioned: Jimmy kee

Seconded: Jasper Walker


**Ryan Sandoval, Commander
Ft. Defiance Agency Veteran Organizations**



The Native American Church of Diné Bi Kéyah - Tsodizin Bee Adziil Bee Ahó Tá'

P.O. Box 469 Sanostee, New Mexico 87461

RESOLUTION OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF DINÉ BI KÉYAH - TSODIZIN BEE ADZIIL BEE AHÓ TÁ RESPECTFULLY ACCEPTS THE REQUESTS FROM THE COUNCIL OF PEYOTE WAY OF LIFE COALITION TO SUPPORT YOUR ORGANIZATION IN THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF; "THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT OF 1994".

WHEREAS:

1. THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF DINÉ BI KÉYAH - TSODIZIN BEE ADZIIL BEE AHÓ TÁ WILL SUPPORT THE COUNCIL OF PEYOTE WAY OF LIFE COALITION.
2. THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF DINÉ BI KÉYAH - TSODIZIN BEE ADZIIL BEE AHÓ TÁ WILL PROVIDE ANY INPUT AS NEEDED.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF DINÉ BI KÉYAH - TSODIZIN BEE ADZIIL BEE AHÓ TÁ FULLY SUPPORTS THE COUNCIL OF PEYOTE WAY OF LIFE COALITION.

CERTIFICATION

THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF DINÉ BI KÉYAH - TSODIZIN BEE ADZIIL BEE AHÓ TÁ, HEREBY, CERTIFIES THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY CONSIDERED AT A DULY CALLED MEETING, AT WHICH A QUORUM WAS PRESENT AND THAT THE SAME WAS PASSED BY A VOTE OF 12 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED ON THIS 19th DAY OF March, 2023, IN SANOSTEE, NEW MEXICO.

MOTIONED: [Signature]

SECONDED: [Signature]

[Signature] PRESIDENT

[Signature] VICE PRESIDENT

[Signature] SECRETARY

**CENTRAL NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO: CAC-NOV-18-04**

**A SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BY THE CHINLE NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL TO OPPOSE THE
DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE AT THE STATES, LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS, AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES.**

WHEREAS:

The Chinle Navajo Agency Council is established under the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation and certified by Resolution IGRS-251-01; and

Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. Section 103 (D) (4), the Chinle Navajo Agency Council, a consortium of elected Chapter Officials representing XXX certified Navajo Nation Chapters, agree to address and undertake common goals and interests for the benefit of the Chinle Navajo Agency Chapters; and

Pursuant 2 N.N.C SECTION: 4028; the Chinle Navajo Agency Council is vested with government authority to review all matters affecting the community to make the most appropriate recommendations when necessary to the Navajo Nation, County, State, Federal, and other local agencies; and

Chinle Navajo Agency Council recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways; and

Chinle Navajo Agency Council recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and

Chinle Navajo Agency Council urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and

Chinle Navajo Agency Council recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the U.S. state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.


Chinle Navajo Agency Council believes it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:


1. The Chinle Navajo Agency Council hereby opposes the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local governments, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
2. The Chinle Navajo Agency Council strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote, and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from the peyote plant, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. The Chinle Navajo Agency Council requests the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

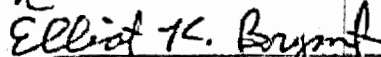
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was approved by the Chinle Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting at Pinon, Arizona, Navajo Nation at which a quorum was present. A motion was made by Ramona Valverde and seconded by Gerald Anstee and the same was passed by a vote of 16 in favor, 2 opposed, and 3 abstained on this 18th day of November 2023.



Joseph Dedman Jr., President



Paul Jim, Vice President



Elliot K. Bryant, Secretary



NORTHERN NAVAJO AGENCY COUNCIL THE NAVAJO NATION

Dr. J. Kalbah Begay
President

Daron Yellowhorse
Vice-President

Matthew D. Tso
Secretary

NNAC-187-2023

Supporting and Approving the Proposed Legislation entitled "A SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BY THE NORTHERN AGENCY COUNCIL TO OPPOSE THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline AT THE STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES" led by the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to IGRD-269-05, 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 nineteen (19) Northern Agency Chapters to the Navajo Nation Government, Federal, State, and Local entities for appropriate action.
2. Pursuant to 26 N.N.C. § 103 (D) (4), the Northern Navajo Agency Council, a consortium of elected Chapter Officials representing nineteen (19) Navajo Nation Chapters, agree to address and undertake common goals and interests for the benefit of the Northern Navajo Agency Chapters.
3. The Northern Agency Council recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways.
4. The Northern Agency Council recognizes Public Law 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, lists peyote and mescaline as a controlled substance.
5. The Northern Agency Council recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L. 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only.
6. The Northern Agency Council urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
7. The Northern Agency Council recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the U.S. state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
8. The Northern Agency Council believes it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

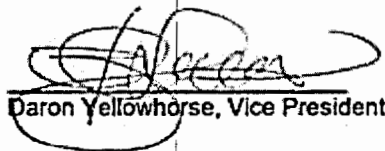
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Northern Navajo Agency Council opposes the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local governments, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
2. The Northern Agency Council strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote, and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from the peyote plant, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. The Northern Agency Council requests the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Northern Navajo Agency Council at a duly called meeting at which a quorum was present. A motion was made by Harry Descheene and seconded by Arnold Slowman and the same was passed by a vote of 22 in favor, 0 opposed, and 14 abstained, this 16th day of September 2023.


Dr. J. Kaibah Begay, President


Daron Yellowhorse, Vice President


Matthew D. Tso, Secretary

TOLANI LAKE CHAPTER

NAVAJO NATION TOLANI LAKE CHAPTER RESOLUTION TL-06-12B-23

Supporting and Approving the Proposed Legislation entitled "A SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BY THE TOLANI LAKE CHAPTER TO OPPOSE THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline AT THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES" led by the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to CMY-23-79, the Tolani Lake Chapter is a non-certified chapter of the Navajo Nation vested with authority and responsibilities to provided 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 Tolani Lake Chapter to make decisions over local matters; and
3. The Tolani Lake Chapter recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways; and
4. The Tolani Lake Chapter recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L. 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and
5. The Tolani Lake Chapter urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L. 103-344 AIRFRA of 1994; and
6. The Tolani Lake Chapter recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the U.S., state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L. 103-344 AIRFFA of 1994; and
7. The Tolani Lake Chapter believes it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Tolani Lake Chapter hereby opposes the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local governments, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.
2. The Tolani Lake Chapter strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote, and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from the peyote plant, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bona-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. The Tolani Lake Chapter requests the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people of opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

WE, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was duly considered by Tolani Lake Chapter, Navajo Nation, Arizona at a duly called Regular Chapter Meeting which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 7 abstained on this 12th day of June, 2023.

Motion: Lloyd McCabe

Second: Phyllis Hashgon

Leland Dayzie
Leland Dayzie, Chapter President

Anna M. Begay
Anna M. Begay, Chapter Vice President

Gabriella Mehl
Gabriella Mehl, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Casey Johnson
Casey Johnson, Council Delegate



Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter
PO Box 4424 Yahtahoy, NM 87376
E-mail: twinlakes@navajochapters.org
Phone: (505) 735-2600
Fax: (505) 735-2605



Elouise Johnson President	Tom Begay Vice President	Joan Nez Secretary/Treasurer	Nathan Notah Council Delegate
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BAH-23-06-15-128

SUPPORTING AND APPROVING THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION ENTITLED "A SUPPORTING RESOLUTION BY THE BAHASTL'AH (TWIN LAKES) CHAPTER TO OPPOSE THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE AT THE STATES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND UNITED STATES TERRITORIES" LED BY THE COUNCIL OF PEYOTE WAY OF LIFE COALITION

WHEREAS:

1. The Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter recognizes Navajo Nation and other federally recognized tribes fought numerous legal and political battles at the tribal, state, and federal level to achieve the right to use our sacred Azeé (Peyote) within our Navajo ceremonial and cultural ways; and
2. The Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter recognizes Public Law 103-344 (P.L. 103-344) American Indian Religion Freedom Amendment Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994) provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only; and
3. The Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter urges all states, local governments, and territories in the U.S. to respect and fully support the continued federal protection of our sacred peyote medicine and to be strictly used by a federally recognized tribal member only as recognized under P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
4. The Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter recognizes that the movement to decriminalize peyote and mescaline by the U.S. state, local governments, and territories directly violates P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994; and
5. The Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter believes it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline efforts in the U.S. as it will affect the ceremonial and cultural practices of Indigenous peoples across the Western Hemisphere including members of the Navajo Nation who have a strong connection to the use of peyote for ceremonial and cultural purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter hereby opposes the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and urges all U.S. states, local governments, and territories to adhere to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.



Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter
PO Box 4424 Yahtahey, NM 87375
E-mail: twinlakes@navajochapters.org
Phone: (505) 735-2600
Fax: (505) 735-2605



2. The Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter strongly opposes the extraction of mescaline and synthesis of peyote, and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture, or other product manufactured or derived from the peyote plant, or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. The Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter requests the Navajo Nation leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life for the Navajo people by opposing the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline and adhering to P.L. 103-344 AIRFA of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

WE, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was duly considered by the Bahastl'ah (Twin Lakes) Chapter, Navajo Nation, at a duly called Regular Chapter Meeting at Twin Lakes, NM which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 12 In Favor, 00 Opposed, 13 Abstained on this 15th day of June, 2023.

Elouise Johnson, Chapter President

Motion: Thompson Johnson

Second: Zunnebah Jim

WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION
NNVA Western Navajo Agency Office
Tuba City, AZ 86045
April 18, 2023

Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization Resolution No: WNAVO- 23 -105 -01
A RESOLUTION OF WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF AZEÉ (PEYOTE) AND Mescaline FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND FOR ALL GOVERNMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT THE USE OF PEYOTE IN A BONIFIED RELIGIOUS CEREMONY AS STATED IN AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT AMENDMENT OF 1994.

WHEREAS:

1. The Western Navajo Agency Veterans' Organization (WNAVO) is established to advocate for eighteen (18) within Western Navajo Agency of Navajo Nation and has the responsibilities of representing Chapter Veterans' Organizations; and
2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJA-3-16, the Western Navajo Veteran Administration and Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council were established and amending 2 N.N.C. §1703 and 1704. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is the oversight authority over the Administration and Advisory Council; and
3. Azeé (Peyote) is used by many Navajo and other Indigenous peoples and is part of the cultural and ceremonial practices as protected by Federal Law; and
4. American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendment of 1994 protects the use of peyote "by a federally enrolled tribal citizen in a bona fide ceremony traditional ceremony"; and
5. Public Law 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 lists peyote and mescaline as controlled substances; and
6. The national decriminalization movement is to lessen the laws for substances and plants that have mescaline for research and extraction, genetic modification in violation of Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994); and
7. Journey Co-Lab, a pharmaceutical company has applied to the Federal Drug Administration for a patent for mescaline; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Western Navajo Veterans Organization opposes the decriminalization of Azeé (Peyote); the extraction and synthesis of mescaline, and any cultivation, tincture, or manufacturing for scientific research.
2. Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization opposes Journey Co-Lab, other pharmaceutical and research companies and entities generic modification, synthetic mescaline, and the extraction of mescaline from peyote.
3. Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization requests all governments in the United States to protect the use of peyote "by a federally enrolled tribal citizen who uses Azeé (Peyote) in a bona fide traditional ceremony" as protected by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendment of 1994.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization at a duly called meeting at Tuba City, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of
9 In Favor 0 Opposed 4 Abstained on 18 April 2023.

Motion: Leslie Dole Second: Ray McCubix

Commander Bill Goodman [Signature] Vice-Commander Leslie Dole [Signature]

Secretary Gabriella Mehl [Signature]



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SAC-21-038

TITLE: Calling on Federal, State, and Local Governments to Protect and Respect Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*) and its Byproducts

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Fawn R. Sharp
Cumaut Indian Nation

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Mark Macario
Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians

RECORDING SECRETARY

Aaron Payment
Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

TREASURER

Sharon Mobley
Socorro-Munoz Band of
Mojave Indians

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

ALASKA

Mike Williams
Alutaiq Native Community

EASTERN OKLAHOMA

Norman Madstrand
Wiyandot Native

GREAT PLAINS

Harold Frasier
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

MIDWEST

Rebecca Crooks-Stratton
Shawnee-Malheur Indian
Community

NORTHEAST

Lance Gumbie
Sisseton Indian Nation

NORTHWEST

Melvin Sheldon, Jr.
Tulalip Tribe of Washington

PACIFIC

Jack Peltier
Nisqually Pechanga

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Mark Pollock
Blackfoot Nation

SOUTHEAST

Beggs Tupponca
Upper Meramec

SOUTHERN PLAINS

Gonzalo Flores
Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas

SOUTHWEST

Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingo Pueblo

WESTERN

Stephen Roe Lavett
Gila River Indian Community

CHEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dante Deckerlin
Zanyony

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202 466 7767
202 466 7707 fax
www.ncai.org

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Peyote plant is sacred to many American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Peoples; and

WHEREAS, certain lands in Texas, the American Southwest, and Mexico are places of spiritual importance and are the only place on Mother Earth where the sacred Peyote plant still grows wild; and

WHEREAS, in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) as amended, Congress recognized that "for many Indian people, the traditional ceremonial use of the peyote cactus as a religious sacrament has for centuries been integral to a way of life, and significant in perpetuating Indian tribes and cultures;" and further provided that "the use, possession, or transportation of peyote by an Indian for bona fide traditional ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of a traditional Indian religion is lawful, and shall not be prohibited by the United States or any State"; and

WHEREAS, the AIRFA affirms use of Peyote only in "bona fide ceremonies" for use only by members of Indian tribes as defined in the AIRFA amendment of 1994, in order to ensure this traditional medicine is protected; and

WHEREAS, Peyote has been consumed by the Indigenous Peoples of present-day North and South America for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the number of Peyote plants has decreased drastically in recent years, threatening the long-term sustainability of the current wild populations, and depleting the number of plants that could be available for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Peyote is a slow-growing plant, and it can take more than a decade to reach maturity; and

WHEREAS, the current Peyote population has suffered from habitat destruction, harmful ranching practices, illegal poaching, and non-holistic harvesting approaches; and

WHEREAS, Peyote, like all living things, is affected by climate change and faces threats to its very existence; and

WHEREAS, the International Union for Conservation of Nature has already categorized Peyote as a vulnerable species; and

WHEREAS, widescale personal and corporate cultivation of the Peyote plant threatens the historical and cultural biological integrity of the plant by potentially exposing the population to hybridization, genetic modification, and sterilization, all of which is in violation of federal law regarding restrictions on Peyote use; and

WHEREAS, the legalization and decriminalization of Peyote consumption beyond the already hundreds of thousands of members of the Native American Church will create a demand and market for Peyote that further threatens the existing wild population; and

WHEREAS, the movement to legalize and/or decriminalize Peyote use at the state and local government level directly threatens the availability of Peyote and therefore threatens the integrity of the ceremonial use of Peyote by AI/AN people and would be contrary to the doctrine of federal preemption, whereby federal law supersedes state law in this area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) opposes the legalization and decriminalization of Peyote at the federal, state, and local government levels except for use "by an Indian for bona fide traditional ceremonial purposes", and further opposes the extraction of mescaline from the Peyote plant for any reason other than these ceremonial purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls upon the federal government to exercise its prerogatives under the doctrine of federal preemption to block state and local governments efforts to legalize and decriminalize Peyote use, in violation of AIRFA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls upon the White House Council on Native American Affairs, in coordination with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Homeland Security, the Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Environmental Protection Agency, and any additional federal departments and agencies with relevant responsibilities, to: (1) convene and conduct a review of federal programs to determine a culturally-sensitive approach to facilitating the protection of Peyote habitats and the restoration of Peyote populations in the wild; (2) identify funding to address the threats to the long-term viability of the Peyote plant; and (3) to address other impediments to the legitimate use of Peyote, such as cross-border restrictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI opposes efforts by states and local governments to legalize, decriminalize, or otherwise authorize any and all uses of Peyote and its byproducts by non-American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/ANs) Peoples as it endangers AI/AN religious, cultural, and ceremonial practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI calls upon state and local governments to accord the principles of respect and recognition to federal and tribal laws regarding the religious, cultural, and ceremonial significance of the Peyote plant to AI/AN Peoples, to respect the documented decline of the Peyote habitat and current efforts underway to protect Peyote from further decline, and to respect the clearly articulated congressional intent to protect the sacred plant as found in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act as amended; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2021 Annual Conference of the National Congress of American Indians, held October 11-14, 2021, with a quorum present.

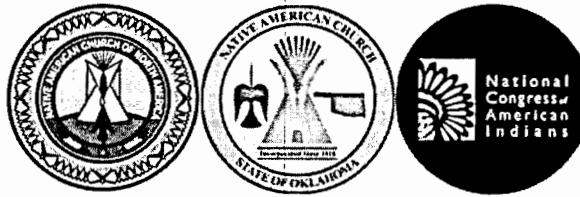


Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Aaron A. Payment, Recording Secretary



JOINT ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

CEREMONIAL AND CULTURAL DISPOSSESSION, EXPLOITATION, AND INADEQUATE CONSULTATION

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS, NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF
NORTH AMERICA, NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF OKLAHOMA

As a coalition of stakeholders representing the interest of American Indian Religious Freedom and the Native American Church's Peyote practitioners, we are deeply alarmed and concerned at the accelerating attempts of pharmaceutical companies to appropriate traditional plant knowledge and traditional plant medicines, in particular, mescaline derived or synthesized from Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*). In response to this, and other similar events, we are requesting that both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) engage in government-to-government consultation on the issue of patenting medical treatments or other inventions based on and/or utilizing Peyote, its derivatives, and/or any synthetic variants as soon as possible and, in any case, prior to any patents being issued and/or any approvals of any kind being authorized for production or use.

This request is being made because recently, Journey Colab¹ a pharmaceutical company, applied for "patents" and FDA approval to synthesize mescaline and offer corresponding proprietary therapy for the treatment of addiction and other mental health disorders. We understand that the same company has marketed to both investors and the FDA a pharmaceutical business model based on shared benefit, reciprocity, and founding equity for relevant Indigenous Peyote communities. Further, Journey Colab claims to have engaged in a consultation process² inspired by the United Nations Framework of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Regarding its advancement of patent applications and pursuit of FDA approval, Journey Colab is claiming to be, "one of the first psychedelic drug development companies to implement consultation with Indigenous communities regarding access and benefit sharing, with a consultation process inspired by the United Nations international human rights standards of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent and the Nagoya Protocol" and has further stated that "Journey Colab has committed to access and benefit sharing with Indigenous communities through the creation of the Journey Reciprocity Trust."

¹ Journey Colab Home <https://www.journeycolab.com>

² Journey Colab Consultation Process <https://www.journeycolab.com/consultation-process>

The Native American Church of North America (NACNA) conducted inquiries to Jeeshan Chowdhury (Co-Founder & CEO of Journey Colab) and Sutton King (former Chief Impact Officer) to find out how Journey Colab conducted their consultation and obtained consent from Indigenous Peyote communities. NACNA also requested copies of their consultation record and a listing of the individuals and organizations that were represented during the consultation process. To date, Journey Colab has neither provided a list of who they consulted with nor provided verification that these claimed individuals and "Indigenous representatives" were authorized by the organizations or Indigenous communities they purported to represent. There has been no release of the "findings" or reports documenting consultation and no verifiable mechanism that FPIC was sought from relevant Peyote communities or Tribal Nations.

The Native American Church of North America, Native American Church of Oklahoma, and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) declare that these historical institutions of representation, which have been entrusted by Indian country to advocate on behalf of the Native American Church, were not consulted, were not offered an opportunity to express viewpoints concerning the commercialization of our heritage molecule extracted from Peyote, and were not apprised that any consultations were, in fact, taking place. Given the information we have at this moment in time, we have no choice but to express our crucial concern for the legitimacy of Journey Colab's claims.

Tribal Nations are undeniable stakeholders in culturally sacred items—such as Peyote—and our voices must not be allowed to be usurped by corporations and other non-governmental organizations, and then sanctioned by the U.S. government. Journey Colab and their unidentified consultation participants are symptomatic of a deeper problem of states and entities claiming to respect and be inclusive of Indigenous and tribal voices, but neglecting to include any voice that may express cultural principles contrary to the preordained direction of such states, corporations, and entities.

However, of bigger concern, is that Journey Colab's actions are representative of a much larger issue whereby pharmaceutical companies are developing products based on Indigenous traditional knowledge that holds cultural and religious significance to Indigenous Peoples and are then turning to the U.S. government to provide legal recognition of rights in those developments by issuing patents and other approvals. Before such legal recognitions are granted, however, the United States must consult with Tribal Nations when the items being commodified and commercialized are exploiting Indigenous traditional knowledge and practice. The United States has a government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations as well as a unique set of duties under the trust and treaty responsibilities to act in the best interest of Tribal Nations when possible. This relationship is grounded in the U.S. Constitution, present in hundreds of treaties, and has been reaffirmed time and again by the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Congress.

The need for consultation with the U.S. PTO is especially critical due to the lack of existing legal recognition and protection for Indigenous Peoples' rights within the U.S. intellectual property system. Efforts are underway to address this gap at the international level in negotiations taking place at the World Intellectual Property Organization. The negotiations are aimed at developing international legal instruments for the protection of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and

traditional cultural expressions, including knowledge and practices associated with sacred plant medicine such as Peyote. The U.S. PTO represents the United States in these negotiations. Although the negotiations have been ongoing for over two decades, the U.S. PTO has never engaged in formal government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations concerning them and has repeatedly taken positions in the negotiations contrary to tribal interests. In view of this grave dereliction, NCAI passed a resolution in 2016 calling for formal government-to-government consultation regarding the negotiations and six years later, following a continued lack of action, renewed the call by resolution in 2022. Although the U.S. PTO has indicated consultations will be held at some point, to date no consultations have been scheduled. The U.S. PTO should move forward expeditiously to schedule the initial round of consultation and additional consultations should occur on a regular basis as the negotiations are ongoing.

For all the foregoing reasons, NACNA, the Native American Church of Oklahoma, and NCAI are requesting that both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office engage in government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations on the issue of patenting medical treatments or other inventions based on and/or utilizing Peyote, its derivatives, and/or any synthetic variants as soon as possible and, in any case, prior to any patents being issued and/or any approvals of any kind being authorized for production or use.



Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians



Jon Brady, President, Native American Church of North America



John Arkeketa, President, Native American Church of Oklahoma

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0131-24

SPONSOR: Honorable George H. Tolth

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act

Posted: June 24, 2024 at 3:46 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: June 29, 2024

Digital Comments received:

<p>Comments Supporting</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Richard and Lula Monroe 2. Tyler Johnson 3. Shaneika Gray 4. Emmett Johnson 5. Darlene Clark 6. Amberlyn Begaye 7. Tamera Talayumtewa 8. Vidale Platero 9. Alvin Clark 10. Jonathan Begay 11. David S. Clark 12. Corileen Phillips 13. LeAnn Johnson 14. Delmar Blackhorse 15. Fenessa Bigwater 16. Lenora Hatathlie
<p>Comments Opposing</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Comments/Recommendations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lucy Benally 2. Al Tsedah 3. Jon Brady



Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services

July 09, 2024; 2:51 PM
Date/Time

[Date] June 27, 2024

The Honorable Delegate George Tolth
Navajo Nation Health, Education, and Human Service Committee
25th Navajo Nation Council
Post Office Box 3390
Window Rock, Navajo Nation AZ 86515

Dear Honorable Delegate George Tolth:

Re: Letter of Support for the legislation titled, **AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT.**

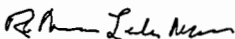
To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing in support of the legislation, "**AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT.**" I have been a staunch advocate for protecting our Navajo way of life. I believe the proposed legislation will provide much-needed support in protecting the ceremonial and cultural use of our sacred Azeé (peyote). In addition, this legislation will ensure federal protection of our Azeé (peyote) will be in accordance with Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only.

I am aware of the decriminalization of peyote efforts in the United States (US). Therefore, I believe it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline. Furthermore, this peyote initiative has created a stronger need for the Navajo Nation to advocate for the enforcement of federal regulations that relate to the use of our sacred Azeé (peyote). Therefore, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

In closing, I whole heartedly support the 25th Navajo Nation Council's proposed legislation. I appreciate your continuous efforts to protect our Navajo way of life. If there is anything more that I can do to support this important peyote protection initiative, please let me know. I wish you the best and thank you for your time regarding this important concern for the Navajo people.

Respectfully,

Signature 

Name Richard and Lula Monroe

Address

City, State, Zip Winslow, AZ.

Reply all | Delete | Junk | ...

Letter of Support for TOLTH Peyote Legislation



Tyler Johnson

Tue 7/2, 4:45 PM

comments

Inbox

6/30/24

The Honorable Delegate George Tolth
Navajo Nation Health, Education, and Human Service Committee
25th Navajo Nation Council
Post Office Box 3390

Window Rock, Navajo Nation AZ 86515

Dear Honorable Delegate George Tolth:

Re: Letter of Support for the legislation titled, AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT.

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing in support of the legislation, "AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT." I have been a staunch advocate for protecting our Navajo way of life. I believe the proposed legislation will provide much-needed support in protecting the ceremonial and cultural use of our sacred Azeé (peyote). In addition, this legislation will ensure federal protection of our Azeé (peyote) will be in accordance with Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994, which provides authorization for Navajo people and other federally recognized tribal members to legally possess, transport, and use peyote strictly for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes only.

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this important peyote protection initiative, please let me know. I wish you the best and thank you for your time regarding this important concern for the Navajo people.

Respectfully,
Tyler Johnson
Tuba City ABNDN Chapter
Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine College President

Tuba City, AZ

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Letter of Support for Tolth-Peyote Legislation



Shaneika Gray

Tue 7/2, 5:29 PM

comments ▾

Inbox

6/30/24

The Honorable Delegate George Tolth
Navajo Nation Health, Education, and Human Service Committee
25th Navajo Nation Council
Post Office Box 3390
Window Rock, Navajo Nation AZ 86515

Dear Honorable Delegate George Tolth:

Re: Letter of Support for the legislation titled, AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT.

To Whom it May Concern,

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I am aware of the decriminalization of peyote efforts in the United States (US). Therefore, I believe it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline. Furthermore, this peyote initiative has created a stronger need for the Navajo Nation to advocate for the enforcement of federal regulations that relate to the use of our sacred Azeé (peyote). Therefore, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I



In closing, I whole heartedly support the 25th Navajo Nation Council's proposed legislation. I appreciate your continuous efforts to protect our Navajo way of life. If there is anything more that I can do to support this important peyote protection initiative, please let me know. I wish you the best and thank you for your time regarding this important concern for the Navajo people.

Respectfully,

Shaneika Gray

ABNDN- Rough Rock Chapter

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Comments to Legislation 0131-24, Opposing Decriminalization of Peyote, Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition.



Emmett Johnson

Thu 7/4, 8:13 AM

comments 

Inbox

A Legislation that says Opposing to Decriminalization of Peyote is a good legislation, but I have to give my highest support to the Legislation 0131-24 the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalitions(CPWOLC) accomplishment and efforts they input into 0131-24 Legislation. The legislation is very strong and detailed with a lot of historical citations and laws that protect our Hinaah Azee. (CPWOLC) doesn't have any string line hidden agenda with Biliigaana, nor has any interest in any outside non profit Organization that funds and supports in psychedelic pharmaceutical companies to sensitize Peyote/ Mescaline. Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative (IPCI) efforts may be good, but I have to say IPCI played a big impact on dividing NAC organizations, officials and members. As it's known, IPCI is owned by Cody Swift (Biliigaana) Riverstyx Foundation and the top IPCI Executive directors are all non Indigenous. CPWOLC is organized by NAC non profit organization on the Navajoland on one mission, to oppose the decriminalization of Peyote and Mescaline. As for the current ABNDN New President/ Executive and Board of Directors, they ignored all efforts made by the CPWOLC. They have been invited with open doors on the issue of Opposing Decriminalization of Peyote, but they still ignored the invitation. ABNDN may be incorporated under the Navajo Division of Economics, but that doesn't mean they are the dominant NAC organization on Navajoland to dictate such action to say "We need to be consultants on all issues pertaining to Azee' and legislations set forth). ABNDN is only and still divided within its own organization of officials at the Executive, BOD, Chapters and Members. CPWOLC has many members from ABNDN and different NAC organizations that support the coalition efforts to oppose the Decriminalization of Peyote. So on the contrary its being said that the CPWOLC doesn't support ABNDN, that's not true, it's vice versa. Finally, CPWOLC has no interest with any outside non indian psychedelic pharmaceutical supporters. I support the 0131-24 Legislation. Let's move forward with this Legislation that's drafted by the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition.

Emmett Johnson

Member of Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition

Official & Member

Azee' Bee Nahagha of Dine' Nation

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July 4, 2024

Re: Recommendation to Legislation, Tracking No. 0131-24, AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT.

To Whom it May Concern,

Our Navajo way of life is our only future which we must protect. Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of **peyote and mescaline**.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

Many of the Navajo people who want better laws for protecting our Navajo way of life are with you. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Darlene Clark

Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation/Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition

Winslow, Arizona

:

July 4, 2024

Re: Recommendation to Legislation, Tracking No. 0131-24, AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND Mescaline IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT.

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Many of the Navajo people who want better laws for protecting our Navajo way of life are with you. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Amberlyn Begaye

Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation
Prose Desert River

Glendale, AZ

July 4, 2024

Re: Recommendation to Legislation, Tracking No. 0131-24, AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT.

To Whom it May Concern,

The vote in the 25th Navajo Nation Council to pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline is the undeniable wish of the people. Several Native American Church/ ABNDN chapters, leaders, and members presented their own supporting documents expressing their wish for the Navajo leadership to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline in the United States. The resolution will have a tremendous effect on protecting the ceremonial and cultural practices of the Navajo people, including other federally recognized tribes.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

The Navajo Nation cannot go wrong when it acts to protect our Navajo way of life. Please pass the proposed legislation. We must respect the laws we fought hard to pass, such as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994. Thank you for your time. May the Creator continue to bless the Navajo leadership. Ahéhee.

Sincerely,

Tamera Talayumptewa

Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation

Glendale, AZ

July 4, 2024

Re: Recommendation to Legislation, Tracking No. 0131-24, AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF THE USE OF PEYOTE AND MESCALINE IN THE STATES, LOCAL, GOVERNMENTS, AND THE UNITED STATES TERRITORIES; AND URGING ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT.

To Whom it May Concern,

Our Navajo way of life is our only future which we must protect. Our tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of **peyote and mescaline**.

In addition, I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

Many of the Navajo people who want better laws for protecting our Navajo way of life are with you. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Vidale Platero

Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation

Glendale, AZ

June 25, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is **Alvin Clark**, I am an enrolled citizen of the Navajo Nation. I appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council moving the legislation titled, *An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local, Governments, and the United States Territories; and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. Tracking No. 0131-24.*

In 1994, Congress passed H.R. 4230 to amend the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1978), known as the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994 (AIRFAA), to provide protected use of peyote to be used in bona-fide traditional ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of traditional Indian religion by federally recognized tribes. I understand the Congressional intent in passing AIRFAA is to protect the use of peyote and all properties within the peyote, including "mescaline." The substance, mescaline, holds a profound connection to the spiritual and ceremonial use of peyote for many of our Navajo people, including other federally recognized tribes. Due to limited resources to regulate the protection of peyote and its property mescaline, loopholes have surfaced, including peyote and mescaline decriminalization efforts at state and federal levels. This is due to the pirating efforts by pharmaceutical, private, and psychedelic interests.

Today, the psychedelic renaissance, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest in peyote and mescaline have caused serious concerns regarding the violation of federal laws and Navajo Codes, AIRFAA, the Drug Abuse Control Act Amendments of 1965, 91-513 Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Controlled Act of 1970, Navajo Bill of Rights, Title 17 of the Navajo Code (NOTE: peyote and mescaline recognized as a Controlled I Substance under federal and Navajo law and cannot be separated), which all protects the ceremonial use of peyote and its properties of mescaline to be used only in a bonafide traditional ceremonial and cultural purposes by federally recognized tribes. I encourage the 25th Navajo Nation Council to oppose any attempt from the psychedelic, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest to patent, trademark, claim as a trade secret, or copyright peyote and all properties, including mescaline. I strongly encourage the inclusion of mescaline within the proposed legislation.

I support and appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council's leadership in protecting our Navajo Way of Life. I respectfully request that you pass the proposed legislation. Ahé hee. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Alvin Clark

Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation, District 7, Teesto, Chapter President
Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition

ADDRESS:

Winslow, AZ -

[EXTERNAL]

Reply all | Delete | Junk | ...

[EXTERNAL]



Jonathan Begay

Sat 7/6, 2:20 PM

comments

Inbox

July 5, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Jonathan Begay. I am Navajo citizen and member of ABNDN who participates in the peyote way of life. Our Navajo and tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline.

I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

Many of the Navajo people who want better laws for protecting our Navajo way of life are with you. Thank you.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

NAME: Jonathan Begay

Organization or Navajo Citizen: Navajo Citizen

----- Kirtland NM

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Ya'ateeh, 25th Navajo Nation Council,

As a former President and Founder of Azee' Bee Nahagha' of Dine' Nation Inc. (ABNDN), I firmly support the Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition's proposed Legislation 0131-24.

As a lifelong advocate for protecting and preserving our Peyote Way of Life, I believe it's critical for our Navajo Council to stand by the laws that our people fought hard to legalize the use of peyote for our Navajo people, including other federally recognized tribes. The passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Acts of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994), the Navajo Bill of Rights, Navajo Code Title 17, the US Controlled Substance Act, and the Navajo Fundamental Laws protects the use of peyote for Navajo people to use in a bonafide ceremonial way. I trust the Navajo Council will uphold its responsibility to stand on the laws that already exist to fully oppose the decriminalization of peyote and its properties of mescaline.

The late Honorable Peterson Zah and the Navajo Council stood strong and firm in supporting the protection of Azee. They lobbied Congress in Washington, D.C., for the passage of the AIRFA of 1994. The late Honorable Senator McCain and the late Honorable Daniel Inouye and Congress respected the Tribal Nations and passed the AIRFA of 1994. In the past, the "All Race Group" continued to lobby for using Peyote. However, they were told that peyote is exempt for only federally recognized tribes because they use it in a bonafide ceremonial way and for purpose only.

I recognize the psychedelic movement by pharmaceutical, private interests, and non-Indians who are heavily interested in peyote and its properties of mescaline. I understand that the Riverstyx Foundation invested in establishing the Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative (IPCI) and Indigenous Medicine Conservation Funds (IMCF) for peyote conservation efforts in southern Texas, also known as Peyote Gardens. Peyote Gardens is a sacred place for many tribes and should be protected through the federal trust responsibility (DEA/ FDA) for the Navajo Nation, especially regarding peyote conservation initiatives for federally recognized tribes in southern Texas.

In addition, there have been more questions than answers by Navajo peyote practitioners, members, and organizations on the intentions of Riverstyx Foundation's involvement with our Peyote Way of Life. In 2017, ABNDN never authorized IPCI to use the National Council of Native American Churches (NCNAC) since the NCNAC never existed then. Furthermore, ABNDN and the Native American Church of North America (NACNA) never authorized IPCI to use the NCNAC to advocate and support the California SB519 drug bill (**see Exhibit A attachment**). These actions by IPCI have caused division, mistrust, and an unhealthy environment among our peyote organizations throughout Indian Country.

I believe strongly that our Navajo way of life, particularly the peyote way of life, should never be associated with the psychedelic renaissance and pharmaceutical interests. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the Navajo Council to fully investigate the Riverstyx Foundation,

IPCI, and IMCF affiliations with the psychedelic and pharmaceutical interest groups (see **Exhibit B attachment**). The Navajo Nation is a sovereign nation, and these non-Navajo entities are infringing on our sovereignty. They need to be held accountable for causing division and mistrust among our Navajo people and Tribal Nations.

Furthermore, on April 16, 2022, the ABNDN Board of Directors passed a resolution titled, *Resolution of the ABNDN, Inc. Respectfully Approving and Recommending the Navajo Nation Council to Oppose the National Peyote Decriminalization*. This resolution is a strong resolution that also opposes the **extraction and synthesis of mescaline** and any cultivation, tincture, or manufacturing for scientific purposes (research) or any reasons outside of a traditional bona fide ceremonial setting and purposes. Also, the resolution supports the Navajo Council to protect and preserve the peyote within its natural aboriginal habitat. This resolution is still valid today and supported by ABNDN members (see **Exhibit C attachment**).

I hope my support of Legislation 0131-24 will encourage the Navajo Council to address the serious Peyote crises. Our ancestors stood firmly in protecting our Navajo way of life. I have confidence in this leadership to stand together to protect and preserve our Navajo Way of Life. Thank you for your time and leadership. Please feel free to contact me for questions at

Thank you.

Respectfully,

David S. Clark

David Sam Clark

Former President and Founder of ABNDN Inc.

Exhibit A:



**National Council of Native American Churches and
the Board of Directors of the Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative**

January 15, 2021

**Comments and Recommendations to Senators Wiener's Office regarding California
Legislation to Decriminalize "Psychedelics"**

We respectfully share our recommendations for language and considerations for the California State Legislative effort to Decriminalize "Psychedelics" as it impacts Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*).

The National Council of Native American Churches (NCNAC) and the Board of Directors of the Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative (IPCI) recognize that Indigenous peoples have utilized entheogenic plants for their health and wellbeing for millennia, and respectfully request that current efforts to decriminalize these relationships should consider the complexities of each plant medicine.

With these recommendations, we ask that Senator Wiener remain cognizant of the various active Native American Treaties and agreements as well as international laws and agreements established under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Nagoya Protocols relating to biological diversity. The biocultural reality of Peyote as a vulnerable species has a distinct and particular legal and cultural history in the United States. As such, it requires specific protections and the United States has a historical trust responsibility, legal obligation, and debt to protect the existing rights and sovereignty of Indigenous Native American peoples of North America.

The obligation of the United States to protect Native peoples' cultures, customs, and traditions, stems from more than two centuries of Treaties, statutes and policies, and more recently obligations that are beginning to be codified under international law. Whereas past law and policy worked to try and destroy Indigenous lifeways, in the modern era the federal government and the State of California maintain government-to-government relationships that respect and work to foster the full expression of Indigenous sovereignty. The National Council and IPCI endeavor to effectuate cultural and medicinal sovereignty through their Peyote conservation efforts.

Our requests and recommendations below consider the complex relationship of the law, our history, and social/cultural realities to Peyote, within the United States.

- 1. We request that it is clearly stated that this legislation will do nothing to alter, change, or undermine the federal AIRFA Amendments of 1994, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. 1996a, or California Health & Safety Code 11363.**

Suggested Legislative Language: The State of California fully respects and supports the continued Indigenous peoples' possession and use of Peyote under federal law, 42 U.S.C. 1996a, understanding that Indigenous peoples in the United States were persecuted and prosecuted for these beliefs for more than a century and had to fight numerous legal and political battles to achieve the current protected status, and by the enactment of this Act does not intend to undermine explicitly or implicitly that status.

The legislation should also expressly mention that California Health & Safety Code 11363 is not amended or repealed. Section 11363 makes it a crime in California to cultivate, harvest, dry, or process any plant of the genus *Lophophora*, also known as Peyote. The legislative history of this legislation should expressly mention that Section 11363 does not preempt 42 U.S.C 1996a, as state law cannot preempt federal law. We would appreciate further discussion concerning this recommendation.

- 2. We recommend that all plants/substances considered for decriminalization should be named specifically, this includes other mescaline containing cacti such as San Pedro (*Echinopsis pachanoi*) and Peruvian Torch (*Echinopsis peruviana*), and that Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*) should be specifically excluded.**

*Suggested Legislative Language: Expressly excluded from the application of this legislation is the cacti Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*) and any cultivation, harvest, extraction, tincture or other product manufactured or derived therefrom.*

- 3. Place an Indigenous member from the National Council and IPCI Board of Directors on the proposed advisory committees for the next two years.**
- 4. Continue to utilize the Decriminalization/Communications Committee of IPCI to represent the National Council and IPCI Board of Directors as representative of a primary stakeholder group, designated Native American Churches, and the Azeé Bee Nahaagha of Diné, in developing the specific language and implementation of this legislation including the scope of the committees.**

Further Background and Context:

It is extremely important that Peyote be preserved for utilization by and for Indigenous peoples. Broken treaties in this land, the preciousness of Indigenous traditions, ecological threats to the medicine itself, and the importance of spiritual respect in its use makes Peyote a tenuous plant to include explicitly in any decriminalization effort. It is important that non-Indigenous people respect and acknowledge the American Indian Religious Freedom Act Amendments of

1994 and take the lead from Indigenous leaders of the Native American Church/Aztcé Bee Nahaagha of Diné Nation (ABNDN) and bona fide Native American Church organizations.

Due to various anthropological and environmental impacts, there is a shortage of Peyote available for Indigenous practitioners of this venerable bona fide religion. The Peyote religious practice is a way of life for generations of Indian people. Many Indigenous people have fought for over a hundred years and will continue to fight for their recognized right to this medicinal sacrament through their inherent respect and responsibility for Peyote's survival and care, as well as the preservation of their traditional way of worship, empirical interaction with it and its environment.

In the United States, Peyote only grows naturally in a small area of southern Texas; its limited natural habitat is a significant factor in the current shortage. The National Council member organizations have for many years been observing the growing crisis in the supply of Peyote in south Texas. Previous studies show unequivocally that Peyote is a threatened species and through IPCI the National Council is working to take the responsibility to restore it to a sustainable status. Peyote does not need further pressures. Indigenous people have already had land, water and other medicines taken away and it is imperative that we maintain the Peyote practice for our children and grandchildren.

In addition, both the federal law and Texas state law permit only Native people who are members of federally recognized tribes to legally cultivate, acquire, possess, use, and transport Peyote. Any local governmental resolution that gives non-Indigenous people who are not affiliated with federally recognized tribes the impression that they now have rights to acquire, possess, use, or transport Peyote in or from Texas would be misleading and may lead to their prosecution.

A concern of the Board of IPCI and particularly its Native American Church/ABNDN leaders is that the message being portrayed within decriminalization resolutions could provide a false sense of legality. Possession, transportation, and use of Peyote by non-natives is illegal under federal and state law. To the extent the "decrim" movement sends a message to local citizens that Peyote is "legal," the collateral and unintended effect could be to increase interest in non-native persons either going to Texas to purchase Peyote, buy it from local dealers who have acquired it illegally and unsustainably in Texas, or poaching on private property.

Due to the complexity of Peyote issues, the Texas ranchers we work with are very concerned about the rampant trespassing and destructive practices of illegal Peyote pickers, which will likely increase with decriminalization efforts. These scenarios, we fear, will further foment the Peyote black market and unsustainable practices in south Texas and compromise the decades long work on the part of Native American Peyote spiritual leaders and allies. The passing of the 1994 Amendments to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act is the result of decades of advocacy to gain legalization for the Peyote practice.

Additionally, one of our IPCI projects is aimed toward improving land management, conservation practices, building relationships with the local ranchers, and to improve growing and harvesting conditions and methods of the habitat.

We strongly encourage non-Indigenous persons to seek alternative medicines so as to not harm the very fragile Peyote population in south Texas or disrespect the spiritual, cultural, and legal norms of our Indigenous peoples.

The opportunity to engage early in the process of developing California legislation is appreciated and we look forward to continued discussions as you move forward.

Respectfully,

Arlen Lightfoot, *President* Native American Church of Oklahoma, IPCI Director

Andrew Tso, *President* Native American Church of North America, IPCI Founding Director

Sandor Iron Rope, *President* Native American Church of South Dakota, IPCI Founding Director

Steven Benally, *President* Azcé Bce Nahaagha of Diné

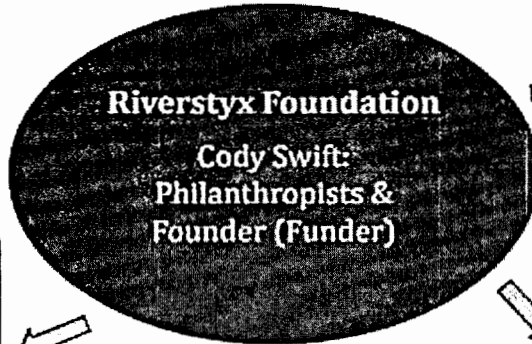
The Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative Board of Directors

The National Council of Native American Churches and

The IPCI Decriminalization/Communications Committee

Exhibit B:

Riverstyx Foundation Funding Partners



Psychedellic Research

- Harvard University
- John Hopkins
- Brown University
- Seattle University
- Naropa University
- Heffter Research Institute

Psychedelic Conferences

- Harvard Divinity University
- MAPS Psychedelic Conferences
- Eco Chacrana Institute
- Horizons PBC
- Sheri Eckart Foundation
- International Society for Research on Psychedelics

Decriminalize Policy Reform

- Criminal Justice Reform Giving Project
- Social Justice Fund
- Drug Policy Alliance
- Healing Advocacy Fund

NOTE: Efforts in Oregon, California, and Colorado

Psychedelic Organizations

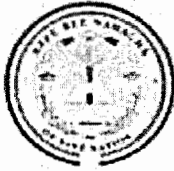
- Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS: Rick Doblin, Founder/CEO)
- American Psychedelic Practitioners Association (APPA)
- Shef/Jewish Psychedelic Support
- Psychedelic Chaplaincy Support
- Alma Institute
- Psychedelics & Pain Association/Cluster Busters
- Psychedelic Health Equity Initiative
- Shef/Jewish Psychedelic Support
- ICEERS (MAPS Fiscal Sponsor)
- Temple of the Way of Light
- Healing Advocacy Fund
- Sunstone Therapeutics

Tribal Organizations

- Indigenous Psyote conservation Initiative (IPCI)
- Indigenous Medicine Conservation Fund (IMCF)
- Hognalot's Weylan Otolah (No longer operational)
- Beginning of a Sacred Home
- Native American Rights Fund (NARF)
- Hauhuma Collective
- Transforming Chaplaincy Psychedelic Care Network
- Red Lodge Transitions Services
- Urban Indigenous Collective (Sutton Ridge)
- Youth Preservation & Stewardship Center (Kapone Center)
- Native American Church of South Dakota

NOTE: Riverstyx Foundation (Cody Swift) funded the establishment of IPCI and IMCF as an investment. Today, IMCF funds the IPCI including other conservation of bi-cultural Indigenous plant medicines. As you can see by the diagram Cody is heavily invested in the psychedelic movement (e.g., MAPS, APPA, etc.), decriminalization policy reform (at the state level), psychedelic research (review New York Times article), and psychedelic conferences/retreats. In addition, Cody's investment in tribal initiatives has raised serious concerns by many Peyote and Tribal leaders in Indian Country. Many of our Tribal and Navajo people strongly oppose any involvement or association with the Psychedelic Renaissance. This includes Riverstyx Foundation, IPCI, and IMCF. Our peyote and other sacred items should never be part of the Psychedelic Renaissance. (References: Riverstyx Foundation Grant List: website)

Exhibit C:



AZEE' BEE NAHAGHA OF DINE NATION, Inc.
P.O. Box 1570 Chinle, Arizona 86503

Willie Tracey Jr., President
Albert Johnson, Vice President

Victoria Woody, Treasurer
Roxanne Harvey, Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE AZEE' BEE NAHAGHA OF DINE NATION, Inc.

**Respectfully Approving and Recommending the Navajo Nation Council to Oppose the
National Peyote Decriminalization**

WHEREAS:

1. Azee Bee Nahagha of Dine Nation, Inc. (ABNDN Inc.) is governed by Board of Directors as provided for in its Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws; and
2. The Native American Church of Navajoland, Inc. (NACNL Inc.), now known as ABNDN Inc. was established on June 11, 1966 as a non-profit organization, was incorporated within the State of New Mexico on May 15, 1972 and in December 1989, the Advisory Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council granted a Revocable Land Use Permit (Mission Site) for NACNL comprising of ten (10) acres of Navajo Nation Trust land at Chinle, Arizona; and
3. ABNDN, Inc. is vested with the authority to review all matters affecting it's membership while making appropriate delicate decisions as deem necessary and to make recommendation to various agencies while seeking resources; and
4. ABNDN recognizes the Azeé (Peyote) plant to be sacred among the Navajo people; and
5. ABNDN recognizes Azeé (Peyote) has been consumed by Navajo people for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes since time in immemorial; and
6. ABNDN recognizes certain lands in the Southwest part of Texas and in Northern Mexico are cultural places of significant importance where Azeé (Peyote) plant grows in its aboriginal habitat; and
7. ABNDN recognizes the number of Azeé (Peyote) plants has decreased in recent years, threatening the long-term sustainability of the Azeé (Peyote) aboriginal habitats or populations, and depleting the number of Azeé (Peyote) that could be available for future generations; and
8. ABNDN recognizes the personal and corporate cultivation of the Azeé (Peyote) plant threatens the historical, cultural, and biological integrity of the plant by potentially exposing the population to hybridization, genetic modification, and sterilization, all of which is in violation of Public Law 103-344 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994 (AIRFA of 1994); and
9. ABNDN recognizes the movement to decriminalize Azeé (Peyote) use directly threatens the availability of Azeé (Peyote) and integrity of the ceremonial use of Azeé (Peyote) for Navajo people, including other Indigenous peoples, and would be contrary to the doctrine of



federal preemption, whereby federal law supersedes state law in this area (under Public Law 103-344 AIRFA of 1994).

10. ABNDN recognizes the decriminalization of Azeé (Peyote) consumption beyond the already hundreds of thousands of federally recognized tribes and other Indigenous peoples, including Navajo people, will create a demand and market for Azeé (Peyote) that further threatens the existing aboriginal inhabitants.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. ABNDN opposes the decriminalization of Azeé (Peyote). Usage should be only "by a federally enrolled tribal citizen who uses Azeé (Peyote) in a bona fide traditional ceremony.
2. ABNDN opposes the extraction and synthesis of mescaline, and any cultivation, tincture, or manufacturing for scientific purposes (research), or for any reasons outside of a traditional bone-fide ceremonial setting and purposes.
3. ABNDN hereby requests to protect and preserve Azeé (Peyote) strictly used for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes by the Navajo people, as protected under federal law.
4. ABNDN hereby requests Navajo leadership to protect and preserve the Peyote Way of Life and the lands in which they reside within its natural aboriginal habitat.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the ABNDN, Inc. Executive Officials and Board of Directors at a duly called meeting at Chinle, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 11 in favor, 00 opposed and 01 abstained, this 16th day of April, 2022.

MOTION: Justin Dale

SECOND: Richard Monroe

Willie Tracey, Jr. President

Alburt Johnson, Vice President

Melinda Nakai, Protemp Secretary

Victoria Woolly, Treasurer





July 5, 2024

The Honorable George Tolth, 25th Navajo Nation Council
Health, Education and Human Services Committee
Post Office Box 3390
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

RE: Support for Legislation 0131-24 titled: An Action Relating to Naabiki'yati Committee:
Opposing The Decriminalization of the use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local
Governments, the US Territories and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious
Freedom Act.

Dear Mr. Tolth,

I, Cora M, Phillips, MSW, write this letter of support to include Mr. Lorenzo Max, Hataalii, Professor, Dineh College, Raymond Maxx, Consultant, Navajo Thaw Project, former NNC Legislator and on behalf of all other Hataaliis, our families and relatives, who stand in support of Legislation 0131-24, for the following reasons:

* As bona-fide Navajo voters, we stand in solidarity with our families and relatives to have this meaningful Legislation 0131-24 passed, that will protect and safeguard our Peyote medicine from the psychedelic and pharmaceutical companies' exploitation. Navajo Nation is a young and growing nation and any legislative work in progress that reflects promises for a better tomorrow for our children's future need to become permanent legislative statutes. It will also factor in the "government to government" consultation measures because this is a strong viable option that's missing and needs to **urgently** be pursued. Justice is fair and unbiased; we should never dishonor this by obscurely engaging with outside corporate interests but rather use the highest moral and ethical standards on behalf of Navajo Nation.

* The right to religious freedom is endowed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). The Congressional American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978 and 1994 is a cornerstone of triumph for our fundamental rights of Native Sovereignty which is now disproportionately and unlawfully impacted. It was passed due to historic injustices, so, it needs to be protected from any further violations from outside interests. The longer that Navajo Nation government doesn't officially intervene, we undermine ourselves to more systemic inequities because we're forfeiting AIRFA's protection of Peyote/mescaline. We'll be sabotaging the federal laws that's criminalized peyote for protection. We're currently faced with relentless challenges; threats to our principles of life and our medicinal Peyote/mescaline. Negotiations with any and all necessary measures to find meaningful solutions to protect our sovereignty is critical.

* Morals, Ethics and Values matter and Action speaks louder than words to **champion a critical cause**. Beliefs, faith and the right to worship is not transactional with any disguised enticements and should be done with untainted truth.

* We can't make progress by staying **silent** from the sidelines. True heroes and leaders unselfishly engages in intellectual dialogues on behalf of their people. They don't complain and they seek no validation or glory. By passing this legislation, it will be a testament to this.



* Currently, there is a demarcation of a human-centered agenda and a political agenda regarding Peyote/mescaline, resulting in one of the worst prospects; a "division" in Navajo Nation that clearly presents danger and will only hurt us and our children's future because outside financial interests and influence is now a part of the schematics, that is tied in with the Conservation of Peyote, movement. Through this, the doors have been opened, inviting the psychedelic and pharmaceutical industry, leaving strong possibilities of the "theft of our peyote medicine and ceremonial practices to conjure". Applications were submitted to the Office of Patent and Trademarks. This is the norm when they steal Indigenous medicine, culture or knowledge through Biopiracy (commercial exploits of Indigenous medicinal plant extracts through patents) I've questioned: "where are the written contractual obligations to define the proposed plans"? If there is none, then what is the hidden agenda?

* Words are meaningless without action and facing uncomfortable truths threatens to destabilize the balance of our value systems and principles. We must avoid these traps that befall us, tripping us and engaging in a false equivalency in the name of neutrality called "lying and covering up." Rather, negotiation or peacemaking to reharmonize, needs to be at the table. **Misinformation and demagoguery can damage the democracy of passing a good legislation.** Rather, we must advocate and engage to honor the wishes of the ancestors who held this medicine, Peyote, close and dear to their hearts. They said many good prayers; we are the ones that they prayed for, to be good leaders and to do the right thing for humanity. So, let's pass this legislation and progress to the next level of dialogue through educational workshops and government consultation to scrutinize for truth and find common grounds for Unity. Axh'heh

Respectfully Submitted,

Cora M. Phillips, BPA/PP, MSW
Flagstaff, AZ

Sent from my iPhone

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NNC Legislation 0131-24



Johnson* L.

Yesterday, 8:10 PM
comments

Inbox

Ya'at'teeh Shi'natani,

Greetings my leaders of the great Navajo Nation. I am writing to support the **Navajo Nation Legislation 0131-24, 'Opposing the Decriminalization of the Use of Peyote and Mescaline in the States, Local Governments, and the United States Territories, and Urging Adherence to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.'**

My support for this legislation is to keep our precious medicine, our peyote Hinaa Azee and its holy & sacred ingredient, the mescaline, out of the hands of psychedelic and pharmaceutical interests, such as Riverstyx Foundation which also funds, and has deep relations with Indigenous Medicine Conservation Fund (IMCF), and Indigenous Conservation Peyote Initiative (ICPI).

The 'Council of Peyote Way of Life Coalition' (CPWLC) was established to bring all Native American Church (NAC) organizations together to bring unity and collaboration for issues surrounding peyote. Working as a team, the Coalition has been working nonstop bringing pressing issues that surround the protection and conservation of peyote and mescaline at local, state, and federal levels. They have been networking with other NAC organizations bringing awareness about conservation, decriminalization, psychedelic, and pharmaceutical interests. The Coalition has invited many NAC organizations to join their efforts on these topics, including Azee Be'Nahagha of Dine Nation (ABNDN). ABNDN never responded at any time. The Coalition members who are also members of ABNDN also made attempts at every ABNDN general meeting and Board of Directors meeting to update them on the current issues and progress made by the Coalition and other NAC organizations. These updates are of decriminalization of peyote efforts, pharmaceutical and psychedelic interests, and the Coalition's legislation. ABNDN never wanted to put these reports and updates on their agendas, even with members' outcry at these meetings. Manipulation and coercion were mainly the behaviors at these meetings. If ABNDN truly wanted to work together, they would have made efforts to bring the members together at their annual convention, but instead, they had a full agenda of ICPI who divided the ABNDN organization and continue to divide them. When ICPI board members, Steven Benally, his wife Lucy Benally, and their relative Andrew Tso were asked, on numerous occasions, to provide a clear presentation of their organization and where their funds come from, they avoided the questions. Instead, ABNDN opposing members, are called 'trouble makers or liars' when they provide factual information about ICPI organization funders. This is ongoing and it's time, that NNC asks serious questions about ICPI, and its sister organizations IMCF and Riverstyx, as indicated in the introduction of this letter. Mr. Benally and Mr. Tso are in a serious conflict of interest for being a President's Spiritual Advisor and the other being an ABNDN Statutory Agent but also serving on a psychedelic/pharma-associated board.

In addition, this legislation includes mescaline which cannot be separated from peyote. Our elders, traditional practitioners, and organizations such as Dine' Hatathalie Assocation, support the notion of not separating the mescaline from peyote. They see it and believe it to be the most sacred and healing part of the peyote.



mescaline, and ultimately legalization will lead to getting access to peyote

The following are some suggestions for the NNC to understand, and consider;

- *Navajo Nation to support the federal government to engage in conservation programs to address peyote habitat preservation in Texas for federally recognized tribes.
- *Navajo Nation to fully understand the psychedelic movement by pharmaceutical interests, and non-Indians who are heavily interested in peyote and its property of mescaline which has caused serious concerns and division among our Navajo peyote communities, including NAC peyote communities in Indian Country.
- *Navajo Nation to understand federal trust responsibility is key to protecting and sustaining our efforts to protect not only our peyote but also our Navajo way of life.
- *Have the federal government fully implement AIRFA of 1994 for all tribes.

In conclusion, while we are bickering among each other in Navajo Nation, more and more states are on the move to drafting and passing bills to decriminalize peyote and mescaline. When these bills become national, it will be extremely challenging to undo them. We need to move fast if this legislation is to be tabled to provide a work session, which is highly recommended. This will provide clarity to NNC about the legislations on both sides.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important topic.

Ahxe'he'e,

LeAnn Johnson
ABNDN Official-Tuba City
CPWLC Member
Life long member

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[EXTERNAL]Public Comment 0131-24



Delmar Blackhorse

Yesterday, 10:21 AM

comments;

Inbox



Action Items

July 8th, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,


Our Navajo and tribal leaders fought hard to protect and preserve our sacred peyote medicine in the passing of the American Indian Religious Freedom Amendment Act of 1994. With a great sense of gratitude, I ask you to please pass the legislation 0131-24 to oppose the decriminalization of peyote and mescaline.

As a grandson of the late Jimmy Holly Sr. and son of Richard Blackhorse (both members of Native American Church (NAC) Organization), I know that my grandfather and dad would not agree with the division currently present on the Navajo Nation as it relates to the issue of protecting our Azéé from corporate greed.

I strongly encourage the Navajo Nation to urge the Federal government, through the United States Department of Justice, to uphold its trust responsibility to protect the use of peyote, including its properties of mescaline. I also encourage the Navajo Nation to advocate for federally funded peyote conservation efforts for federally recognized tribes.

Many of the Navajo people who want better laws for protecting our Navajo way of life are with you.

Delmar
Navajo Citizen

Delmar R. Blackhorse
Vice President, Investments
Investment Advisor Representative

Mette Associates, LLC

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[EXTERNAL]0131-24



Fenessa Bigwater

Today, 2:37 PM

comments

Inbox

Honorable members of the Navajo Nation Council,

I would like to respectfully request that you support this legislation and vote in YES to Opposing the Decriminalization of Peyote.

This is important to well being of many Native American Church members. This is our way of life and it shouldn't be manipulated or given away to people of no faith.

This way of life has been around for many generations. My life is being affected many of us who believe are under attack. Just as Dine' were forced into boarding schools and had our livestock taken away.

Today, in this modern age, Native American Church members are being into forced assimilation. This can't be allowed! We are a Strong Nation and I believe in the power of prayer and I believe in our government. That our Tribal Council members act on behalf of us. Please hear our urgent call for help and vote in Agreement to Opposing the Decriminalization of Peyote. May you all continue to be blessed in your endeavors!

Thank you,

Fenessa Bigwater

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[EXTERNAL]0131-24



Lucy Benally

Tue 7/2, 4:11 PM

comments

Inbox

Sent from my iPhone

Dear NN Council,

Comments to consider:

- 1) not all Dine understand the whole issue of Decrim.
- 2) not all people, especially elders do not understand the issue of the difference of mescaline in peyote & synthesize mescaline . Because science is involved.
- 3) we do not know the nature /chemicals of how synthetic mescaline works. Same or different from peyote mescaline, studies/research needs to be done.
- 4) We do not consider synthesized mescaline to be holy or sacred
- 5) the members of this legislative sponsors are exhibiting lateral oppression to other NAC organizations & members
- 6) this legislation is used as a threat to individuals working with outside entities working on peyote conservation.
- 7) the threat is, "once this legislation is passed Individuals will be investigated".
- 8) people not joining this organization are ostracized & belittled.
- 9) real discussion / voice of natural masculine of peyote & synthetic mescaline is needed from every NAC members on the NN, not just this group.
- 10) impact of this issue in the future, we don't know. Very sensitive.
- 11) this is a divisive action on the sponsors part. Members are scared to commit on any thing, they are just holding back.
- 12) Decrim only involves Peyote & 5 other controlled substance.. This group is using scare tactics, saying they are taking our herbs. this is not so.

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Legislation 0131-24



Al Tsedah

Tue 7/2, 5:44 PM

comments 

Inbox

I believe proper protocol needs to happen; ABNDN, Inc, Chinle, AZ , was never consulted nor were the BOD didn't offer any suggestions to this unclear information. It needs to go through the proper protocol to issue a legislation. George Tolth should know the process. Thank you.

Al Tsedah, Membership
ABNDN

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NACNA - Comments July 5, 2024 10 Navajo chapters affiliated with NACNA



Jon Brady

Sat 7/6, 11:23 AM

comments

Inbox

Navajo Nation Support ...
121 KB

combinepdf (3).pdf
4 MB

2024-Testimony JB appr...
545 KB

Peyote Joint Statement ...
305 KB

Reso 24-02 JPW no pre...
118 KB

New NCAI resolution .pdf
132 KB

6 attachments (6 MB) Download all

Jon Brady

President of Ft. Berthold NAC

President of NACNA

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Milton Beston

South Dakota

TBA

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Utah

Sarah Fanman

Wisconsin

Buddy Powless

Wyoming

William Goggles

Native American Church of North America

P.O. Box 1424
New Town, ND 58763



July 5, 2024

25th Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Honorable Navajo Nation Council Delegates

The Native American Church of North America (NACNA) the most representative and only national body advancing the needs and issues of the Native American Church "*Peyote Practitioners*" wishes to support Legislation 0131-24. NACNA does so on behalf of the critical mass of Navajo Nation citizens and chapters who are affiliated with NACNA. Now in our 76th year NACNA stands strong on its long history of respectful collaboration with the Navajo Nation, Navajo Land NAC and ABNDN.

We lend our voice to this crucial legislation because our ceremony and religious freedom is facing an existential threat. The complexities of this threat are profound. They center on the loss of vital peyote habitat in South Texas and the psychedelic tourism / pharmaceutical industry. The Legislation sponsored by NNCD George Tolth, Denny Simpson and Helena Nez Begay partially addresses these threats. Legislation 0131-24 represents a consistency with existing policy objectives that NACNA has endorsed opposing legalization of peyote and mescaline and conservation. These policy goals have been organized by a deliberative and consultative process involving tribal leaders, peyote Tribes, peyote practitioners, and leadership of historic democratic institutions of the Native American Church. This process included vast participation of Navajo Nation citizens.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) partnered with NACNA to create a venue for all peyote practitioners throughout Indian country. Over the course of two years the body met to develop and vet a proposed White House Executive Order to address the crisis we now face. The proposed "Draft" EO was a result of three White House meetings, public forums in Albuquerque, Farmington, Gallup, Rapid City, Laredo, Oklahoma City, Shakopee, Twin Arrows, New Orleans, Sacramento and Washington, D.C. (2022-2024). The amount of logistics and accomplished policy work achieved with consensus was significant.

The positive policy goals and actions contained within the EO represent a "national voice". Peyote or Azee does not belong to one tribal nation, nor does one tribal nation carry preeminence over others. Tribal legislative efforts such as 0131-24 will honor respect and deference. Understanding the issues surrounding peyote requires an acknowledgment that we are all inextricably

linked. Just as positive policy goals advance the needs for all peyote practitioners, bad policy hurts everyone.

Contained within the policy declaration of the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) is a commitment by the federal government to "Preserve and Protect" American Indian religions and ceremonies. NACNA as a matter of policy and clear unanimity of our national membership engage both Congress and the Executive Branch in a manner that asserts there is *federal trust responsibility* to the Peyote religion/ceremony and the preservation of medicines that Tribal Nations are totally dependent upon for their ceremonies and religious practices. The legislation before the NNCD 0131-24 clearly defines measurable "Trust" standards within the purview of the federal government. This is impactful policy that helps all Indian country.

Trust obligations to federally recognized American Indian Tribes and their citizens encompass peyote issues because of AIRFA. The statute itself has never been fully implemented and needs heightened attention within the federal government. We cannot achieve enhanced implementation of AIRFA without efforts such as Legislation 0131-24.

It is the policy of NACNA to support tribal governments and work collaboratively with Tribal Nations. NACNA respects sovereignty and a government-to-government relationship between Tribal Nations and the Federal government. NACNA believes that non-profit organizations, especially those that are non-representative or operate outside of their by-laws should defer to Tribal leadership and should never usurp the voice of Tribal Nations.

There exists a desperate need for Tribal Nation engagement with the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Department of Justice. Urgent action is required to have tribal consultation with the United States Patent and Trademark Office who is reviewing *patent* request for "mescaline" and other traditional medicines. The Food and Drug Administration is reviewing traditional medicines for clinical approval without any Tribal consultation and the entire United States Department of Agriculture has failed to engage and host Tribal consultation on medicine access and protection despite sections of the Farm Bill that engage Tribal Nations on access with the National Forest Service.

Most alarming is that USDA Farm Service Agency/Bureau has invested in the destruction of thousands of acres of peyote land through soil conservation/crop conversion subsidies to private landowners who wish to develop or convert their natural habitat. USDA has done so in violation of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

This apathy of the federal government is allowed to happen because Tribal Nations have been silent and because Tribal Nations have not formally requested Tribal consultation on these issues. This happens because we have not sufficiently raised concerns surrounding full AIRFA implementation. NACNA efforts and that of our many Tribal partners are an attempt to engage the federal government to assure that these actions which are contrary to Trust obligations end.

Peyote, which is naturally occurring, requires natural habitat, peyote only grows wild in four counties in South Texas. It grows nowhere else in America. **All naturally occurring peyote in America exists within the nexus of private land.** Meaning we are all beholden to private landowner rights and the goodwill of private landowners. While we celebrate the landmark peyote amendments to the 1994 American Indian Religious Freedom Act, we also acknowledge there is nothing in the statute that protects the peyote cacti/plant. Private landowners can continue to develop, plow, convert or

simply ban peyoteros from their private property and they would be within their landowner rights to do so.

NACNA believes, as do Peyote tribes across Indian Country, that Mescaline is the "holy spirit" of Peyote. Thereby, mescaline, in any way shape or form must be protected from decriminalization; Peyote and Mescaline are one of the same, they cannot be separated. Pharmaceuticals and the psychedelic community have presented arguments that they are protecting peyote but with the same breath have been advocating for the decriminalization of mescaline. This has been a failing scheme. Thereby, Tribal Nations across Indian Country have specifically opposed the decriminalization of Mescaline.

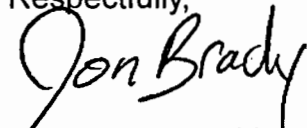
Because of this reality we need federal government engagement and public private partnerships that are incentivized by the federal government under conservation initiatives. Be it Tribal leaders or peyote leaders we all have a responsibility to understand the ramifications of inaction, the consequences of allowing misinformation to cloud this critical issue and the fierce urgency of now.

In conclusion we remind all there would not have been a 1978 or 1994 American Indian Religious Freedom Act without Tribal leader engagement. The late Peterson Zah co-chaired the American Indian Religious Freedom Project which led to the

peyote amendments of AIRFA 30 years ago. If he had hesitated or allowed himself to be bogged down in petty politics or a misinformation campaign the initiative would not have been possible.

NACNA stands by as a resource, as a partner to the Navajo Nation and as an advocate for the peyote way of life.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon Brady, President
Native American Church of North America



**2024 Midyear Convention
Canyonville, Oregon**

RESOLUTION #24 – 16

**“SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING A WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON
ADVANCING EQUITY, PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF
AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE RELIGIOUS AND
CEREMONIAL RIGHTS”**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978 and AIRFA Peyote amendments of 1994 were enacted in order to ensure free exercise to American Indian practitioners of the Peyote ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional intent of AIRFA included the preservation and protection of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian, religions, traditions, ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, there exist numerous barriers to the fullest expression of free exercise including access to sacred sites, medicine, food and clean water; and

WHEREAS, a lack of enforcement of AIRFA and lack of clear policy goals linked to AIRFA have led to the continuance of barriers preventing free exercise; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians Peyote Task Force, Native American Church of North America in a consultative and collaborative process have adopted a draft Proposed Executive Order (draft EO) entitled “*Establishing White House Initiative On Advancing Equity, Protection, And Preservation Of American Indian And Alaska Native Religious Freedom*”; and

WHEREAS, the draft EO aims to strengthen the implementation of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act; and

WHEREAS, the draft EO establishes:

- 1) Policy Statement
- 2) Mobilize Executive Agencies
- 3) Establish Interagency Working Group through WHCNAA
- 4) Establish White House Initiative; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is offered in loving memory and honor of Ted Strong (Yakama) and Dave Matheson (Coeur d’Alene); now


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI affirms its support for the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act and the Peyote amendments of 1994; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the enclosed draft proposed Executive Order entitled “*Establishing White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection, And Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious Freedom*”; and

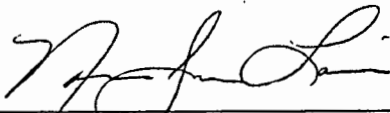
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2024 Midyear Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville, OR, May 19 – May 23, 2024 with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary



**UNITED TRIBES OF NORTH DAKOTA
RESOLUTION
RESOLUTION NO. 23-10-01**

TITLE: Resolution in favor of Executive Order Establishing White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection, and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious Freedom.

WHEREAS, United Tribes of North Dakota (“United Tribes”) is the inter-tribal association of the five federally recognized Tribes co-located with North Dakota, each of which has a government-to-government relationship with the United States government established by Treaty, including the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, the Spirit Lake Tribe, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Three Affiliated Tribes, and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, with a Board of Directors composed of the Chairman and once council member from each member Tribe; and

WHEREAS, United Tribes, founded in 1968, exists to further the common goals of the Indian Tribes and Nations co-located within North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, United Tribes has reviewed the working draft of the “Executive Order Establishing White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection, and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious Freedom” (hereinafter the “Executive Order”) which is endorsed by the Native American Church of North America and the National Congress of American Indians Peyote Task Force; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Order seeks to establish policies designed to aid in the protection of rights of Tribal Nations while honoring Tribal sovereignty on all matters, including, but not limited to, Tribal Nations’ rights to freely exercise religious and ceremonial beliefs; and

WHEREAS, United Tribes supports the implementation of the Executive Order and believes that such is necessary to further the common goals of the Indian Tribes and Nations co-located within North Dakota.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the United Tribes of North Dakota does provide general support for the adoption and implementation of the Executive Order Establishing White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection, and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious Freedom.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution of Support is contingent upon the final draft of the Executive Order being substantially consistent with the

working draft that was presented to the Board of Directors of the United Tribes of North Dakota on October 6, 2023.

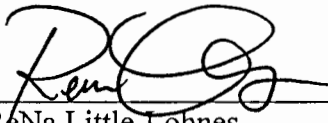
CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing resolution was duly passed at a meeting of the Board of Directors of United Tribes at which a quorum was present, held on the 6th day of October, 2023, with a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 2 not present.



Jamie Azure
Chairman, Board of Directors
United Tribes of North Dakota

ATTEST:



ReNa Little-Lohnes
Secretary, Board of Directors
United Tribes of North Dakota



GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL CHAIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

Mailing Address: US Post Office Box 988, Rapid City, SD 57709

GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL CHAIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION (GPTCA)

RESOLUTION

**THE GPTCA HEREBY CALLS UPON THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO
ADOPT A WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON THE PRESERVATION AND
PROTECTION OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CEREMONIES,
TRADITIONAL PRACTICES, AND RELIGIONS.**

Resolution No. – 02-09-08-2023

WHEREAS, The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association (GPTCA) is composed of the elected Chairs and Presidents or their duly appointed representatives of the sovereign Indian Tribes and Nations recognized by Treaties with the United States that are within the Great Plains Region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association was formed to promote the common interests of the Great Plains Sovereign Indian Tribes and their members in the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, through treaties, statutes, U.S. constitutional policies, and judicial decrees, the United States assumed a legal responsibility to protect Indian Tribes, provide services, guarantee the right of tribal self-government, guarantee the protection and safety of tribal members, guarantee the right of culturally appropriate education for members of Indian tribes, and promote the viability of Indian reservations as permanent homelands for Tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, August 11, 1978, The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) was signed into law by President Carter. Declaring that it is the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiians, including but not limited to access to sites, use, and possession of sacred objects and freedom to worship through ceremonies and traditional rites; and

WHEREAS, the 45th anniversary of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act should be celebrated by both the Biden Administration and Congress. In commemorating AIRFA, the Biden Administration has an opportunity to fully implement the policy declaration contained within AIRFA and review the effectiveness of AIRFA, the Executive branch agency's responsiveness to AIRFA, and measure through tribal consultation the viewpoints of Indian Tribes and their members concerning AIRFA; and

WHEREAS, by examining AIRFA, the Biden Administration would be the first Administration to assess and review AIRFA since the Carter administration; and

WHEREAS, AIRFA lacks enforcement mechanisms containing "no" cause for action within the statute, making administrative engagement necessary to fulfill the promise of AIRFA; and

WHEREAS, there exists conflicting information regarding the interpretation, trust corpus, and policy implementation within the various federal agencies concerning AIRFA; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Church of North America (Peyote Practitioners) and National Congress of American Indians Peyote Taskforce have authored a proposed Executive Order that would sharpen the focus of the Administration and create administrative lead interagency collaboration to address statutory conflicts and policy incongruence challenging American Indian free exercise of religion; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association does hereby support and endorses the enclosed proposed Executive Order titled **"Establishing a White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious Freedom."**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that GPTCA request that the Biden Administration advance this proposed initiative or a similar Executive Order containing shared policy directives and interagency collaboration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the GPTCA does hereby celebrate and honor the 45th anniversary of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, GPTCA encourages the Biden Administration and Congress to commemorate this landmark legislation in kind; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association unless and until it is withdrawn by subsequent resolution.

Resolution No. – 02-09-08-2023

CERTIFICATION

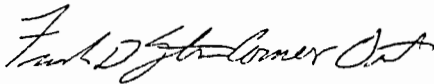
This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc. held at Bismarck, ND on September 8th, 2023, at which a quorum was established, 9 members voting in favor, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstaining, and 7 members not present.

Dated this 8th day of September 2023



**President Tony Reider, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe,
Secretary, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc.**

Attest:



**President Frank Star Comes Out, Oglala Sioux Tribe
Chairman, Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Inc.**



Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

2929 3rd Ave. North, Suite 300, Billings, Montana 59101

Ph: (406) 252-2550

Fax: (406) 254-6355

April 11, 2024

Neera Tanden
Director, Domestic Policy Council
Executive Office of the President
1650 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20504

Rose Petoskey
Senior Advisor to the White House
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and
Director of Tribal Affairs
New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20504

Anthony Morgan Rodman
Executive Director
White House Council on Native American Affairs

Director Tanden,

Please accept this correspondence as an enthusiastic endorsement by the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council <https://www.rmtlc.org> of the proposed Executive Order (EO) titled ***“Establishing a White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection, and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religions and ceremonial Freedoms”***.

This proposed EO is a result of consultative work done by the National Congress of American Indians “Peyote Task Force”. Shoshone Bannock Chairman Lee Juan Tyler Teton, and Northern Arapaho Councilman Keenon Groesbeck participated in the formation of this proposal. Important to Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council is the history and kinship to the Peyote ceremony by the Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy, Crow Tribe, Eastern Shoshone, Shoshone Bannock of Ft. Hall and Northern Arapaho. Many of our other RMTLC member tribes have individual citizens who are members of the Peyote ceremony, and thousands of our collective tribal members still practice traditional tribal ceremonies and religions. This requires medicines, access to sacred places, and an advocacy agenda by the federal government to fully implement the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.


The Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council is proud to join the National Congress of American Indians, Great Plains Tribal Chairmans Association, United Tribes of North Dakota and the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma in endorsing this proposed Executive Order.

We commend the Biden Administration for significant steps towards greater Free Exercise such as the ***Indigenous Knowledge Guidance for Federal Agencies*** and corresponding ***Implementation Memorandum***, the recent release of the ***Best Practice Guide For Federal Agencies Regarding Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites, the Haaland Secretarial Order of Tribal Co-Management of Federal Lands*** and finally the unprecedented investment in Native Language revitalization. These significant policy directives can be enhanced and operationalized with greater impact with support from the proposed EO.

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act is now in its 45th year and we are marking the 30th anniversary of its 1994 amendments that legalized Peyote for American Indian practitioners of the Native American Church. The anniversary of these hard-fought Indian country victories offers an important opportunity for the Biden Administration to celebrate with us the anniversaries of these crucial statutes, review the Administration's implementation of the statute and reinvigorated the federal government's policy declaration to protect and preserve American Indian and Alaska Native religions and ceremonies.

I thank you for all of the hard work you have done on these crucial issues and pledge our support to help this Administration remove the last barriers to Free Exercise.

Respectfully,



Bryce kirk (Apr 11, 2024 16:19 MDT)

Bryce Kirk, Chairman

Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Freedom of Religion (002)

Final Audit Report

2024-04-11

Created:	2024-04-11
By:	William Snell (william.snell@rmtlc.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAOS7epiXawcqff_snUvRL41SMZilgDPOs

"Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Freedom of Religion (002)" History

-  Document created by William Snell (william.snell@rmtlc.org)
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-  Document emailed to bryce.kirk@fortpecktribes.net for signature
2024-04-11 - 9:32:58 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by bryce.kirk@fortpecktribes.net
2024-04-11 - 10:18:17 PM GMT- IP address: 70.33.50.204
-  Signer bryce.kirk@fortpecktribes.net entered name at signing as Bryce kirk
2024-04-11 - 10:19:11 PM GMT- IP address: 70.33.50.204
-  Document e-signed by Bryce kirk (bryce.kirk@fortpecktribes.net)
Signature Date: 2024-04-11 - 10:19:13 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 70.33.50.204
-  Agreement completed.
2024-04-11 - 10:19:13 PM GMT



UNITED INDIAN NATIONS OF OKLAHOMA

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

A Resolution in Support of the Native American Church of North America, Inc. (NACNA) legislative and legal initiatives to protect and preserve American Indian Medicines (Peyote and other traditional medicines), Ceremonies, Language, Sacred Sites, and Cultural Practices

WHEREAS, the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma (UINO) is an organization established to protect the inherent sovereignty and self-determination of all Tribal Nations based in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, UINO seeks to safeguard the laws and treaties that benefit Tribal Nations and Tribal citizens and to help improve government-to-government relations among Tribal Nations in Oklahoma, the United States, and the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, UINO strives to protect the ceremonial, cultural, religious rights and access and usage of sacred sites of its member Indian Nations; and

WHEREAS, religious freedom is an inherent right for all people, guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and affirmed under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978; and

WHEREAS, UINO recognizes the need to strengthen the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA); and

WHEREAS, UINO opposes the decriminalization and patent of Peyote, its derivatives, and / or any synthetic variants drawn from Peyote to include but not limited to Mescaline; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Peyote Working Group and the Native American Church of North American, Inc. has worked to create the proposed Executive Order Establishing a White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection, and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious and Ceremonial Freedom to address the need for fuller implementation of the declaration contained within the AIRFA statute which makes it the policy of the United States to "protect and preserve American Indian and Alaska Native Religions"; and

United Indian Nations of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 766 | Jenks, OK 74037 | www.UINoklahoma.com 918-914-1491



WHEREAS, the proposed Executive Order includes the following provisions: 1) policy statement, 2) mobilization of executive agencies to provide support for Free Exercise, 3) establishment of an interagency working group through the White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNA), 4) establishment of a White House Initiative Office,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, UINO supports the Draft Executive Order, Establishing White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection, and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious Freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that UINO does declare the condition of American Indians and Alaska Native peoples' religions and ceremonial practices as vulnerable and urges the White House to adopt this proposed Executive Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that UINO leadership and staff are authorized and directed to take any other appropriate action to advance the equity, protection, and preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious and Ceremonial Freedom; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the Policy of UINO until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma membership in Bartlesville, Oklahoma on this 19th day of March 2024, with a quorum present.

Chief Ben Barnes, Chairman

ATTEST

Principal Chief David Hill, Recording Secretary

United Indian Nations of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 766 | Jenks, OK 74037 | www.UINoklahoma.com 918-914-1491



Coalition of Large Tribes

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon
Crow Nation • Duck Valley Indian Reservation Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute

Resolution: March-9-2024-Resolution #05-2024 (Las Vegas, NV)

Resolution of COLT Support for Establishing a White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious and Ceremonial Freedom.

WHEREAS, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land base, including the Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe and is Chaired by Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Nation; and

WHEREAS, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting Tribes that govern large trust land bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for tribes and individual Indian landowners; and

WHEREAS, COLT Tribes are some of the last Native language speaking Tribes, with high participation in cultural, ceremonial, religious practices. These spiritual practices are tied to sacred places where medicines, foods, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, COLT Tribes hold significant interest in off-reservation sacred places and sites that are on federal, state and private land. These sacred places are often inaccessible and require public-private partnerships to allow for free exercise of American Indian religions; and

WHEREAS, COLT Tribes have diverse religious and ceremonial practices spanning thousands of unique ceremonies and protocols. A unifying ceremony practiced by a super majority of COLT Tribes is the Peyote ceremony, also known as the Native American Church; and



Coalition of Large Tribes

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon
Crow Nation • Duck Valley Indian Reservation Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute

WHEREAS, Tribes who are now members of COLT supported both the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) and the 1994 AIRFA amendments which protected members of federally recognized Indian tribes in their legal use of Peyote as a sacrament; and

WHEREAS, AIRFA is now in its 45th year and we are celebrating the 1994 amendments' 30th anniversary, and we observe there is a profound need to review, in coordination with Tribal Nations, the implementation of AIRFA in order to assess its successes and advance policy proposals that will remove persistent barriers to free exercise; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Initiative in the form of an Executive Order was drafted by members of the Native American Church who are members of COLT Tribes. The proposed Executive Order has been vetted throughout Indian Country, including before the Great Plains Tribal Chairmans Association, United Tribes of North Dakota, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, United Indian Nations of Oklahoma and the National Congress of American Indians; and

WHEREAS, COLT has long championed such protections including, for example, opposing legalization of mescaline, as indistinguishable from peyote, because such legalization would decimate traditional Native American Church practitioners' access to peyote; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) supports the proposed White House Initiative and corresponding Executive Order (attached hereto); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, COLT supports Tribally-driven efforts from both federally recognized Indian Tribes and historic democratic representative bodies of the Native American Church in peyote land restoration, medicine access and advisement to agencies surrounding the removal of barriers to the fullest Free Exercise of American Indian religious freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, COLT encourages efforts that are Indigenous led and owned, that ensure that Indigenous cultural knowledge and practices are being preserved and shared in ways that honor ancestral wisdom, and that enjoy the maximum available legal protections; and



Coalition of Large Tribes

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon
Crow Nation • Duck Valley Indian Reservation Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of COLT until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

Attest:

Marvin Weatherwax, Chairman, Coalition of Large Tribes

Crystalyne Curley, Secretary, Coalition of Large Tribes

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held in Las Vegas, Nevada within the home state of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation on March 9, 2024 at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this March 9, 2024.

Addendum to Resolution NO-23-057

WORKING DRAFT**EXECUTIVE ORDER****ESTABLISHING WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE on ADVANCING EQUITY, PROTECTION, and PRESERVATION of AMERICAN INDIAN and ALASKA NATIVE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, in furtherance of Federal treaties, in order to protect and preserve Indian religious practices, in order to reduce the impositions and barriers preventing the full exercise of Indian religious freedoms and to enhance collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have implications on the fullest expression of Indian religious freedom, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The United States has a unique political and legal relationship with federally recognized Tribal Nations, as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, statutes, treaties, Executive Orders, Administrative rules, and judicial decisions. The Federal Government is committed to protecting the rights and ensuring the well-being of Tribal Nations while honoring Tribal sovereignty and inherent rights of self-determination. No right is more crucial to Tribal Nations than the right to free exercise of their religious and ceremonial beliefs. In recognition of the Federal government's commitment to free exercise and the policy declaration contained within the 1978, 1994 (amended) American Indian Religious Freedom Act the Federal government has a solemn duty Tribal Nations. The entire Federal government and the executive departments and agencies are duty bound to advance religious, ceremonial protection, preservation and equity of Tribal Nations and their members to practice their religious and ceremonial beliefs.

Each executive branch agency with statutory or administrative responsibility will engage in government-to-government coordination with Tribal Nations to identify barriers to Tribal religious free exercise. The agencies will further engage in meaningful Tribal consultation to evaluate the implementation of the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

For more than two centuries the United States promulgated policies designed to eradicate American Indian and Alaska Native religions and ceremonies. The federally supported boarding schools were not just designed to assimilate Native Children, they were designed to eliminate the transmission of intergenerational religious and ceremonial practices. The Federally funded assimilation and corresponding proselytization of Native children is repudiated by my Administration.

It is the policy of my Administration to advance equity, protection, and preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native religious and ceremonial practices to further Tribal self-governance, Tribal sovereignty, and Tribal well-being. My Administration will aid the expansion of opportunities and provide avenues to assure Tribal religious and ceremonial free exercise by collaborating with Tribal nations and their ceremonial practitioners to identify and remove barriers. This will include the advancement of voluntary public private partnerships to ensure access to sacred lands, plant medicines, ceremonial herbs, ceremonial sites, and traditional foods. My Administration will heighten interagency coordination to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of sacred lands including identifying federal investments on private land that destroy or diminish the integrity of sacred sites, sacred lands, and the plant medicines and ceremonial herbs that grown on such lands.

It is the policy of my Administration to revitalize Native languages which are inextricably linked to the fullest practice of Tribal religious free exercise. My Administration is committed to advancing traditional ecological knowledge, this Administration acknowledges the importance of this knowledge which is a precursor to American Indian religious freedom.

My Administration recognizes the heroic unparalleled patriotic service of American Indian and Alaska Native veterans who fought for and defended liberties and freedom throughout the world that they themselves did not enjoy here in America.

To these ends my Administration is committed to the fullest implementation of the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act and commits to carrying out our trust responsibility under this statute. This order establishes a means to better coordinate, increase engagement and expand opportunity to sustain prosperous and resilient Tribal communities.

Section 2. *Establishment of the White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious and Ceremonial Freedom*

(a) There is established in the Department of the Interior within Indian Affairs the White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious and Ceremonial Freedom (Initiative).

(b) This initiative is to ensure the free exercise of American Indian and Alaska Native religious and ceremonial practices, to protect and preserve all American Indian and Alaska Native religions and ceremonial practices, and to fulfill our commitment to our Federal trust obligations to all Tribal Nations pursuant to our respect and recognition of Tribal sovereignty.

(c) The Initiative shall be led by three co-chairs whom, shall be the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, and U.S. Attorney General. The Secretary of the Interior shall, in consultation with the other co-chairs of the initiative, designate an Executive Director for the Initiative. The Executive Director will chair a new committee (Committee) of the White House Council on American Indian Affairs (WHCAIA), established by Executive Order 13647 on June 26, 2013. The Committee will have a purview surrounding religious, ceremonial issues, sacred sites, cultural and language issues, public private partnerships in protection of sacred lands, and

implementation of existing statues and greater Tribal Nation inclusion in Federal programs and initiatives.

(d) The Initiative or committee shall consult and engage in meaningful consultations throughout Indian Country in collaboration with Tribal Nations, Alaska Native entities, religious and ceremonial leaders (medicine men and medicine women), historic representative bodies of federally recognized Tribal Native American Churches (Peyote practitioners), Tribal Historic Preservation officers, elders and designated surrogates of Tribal Nations, federally recognized Tribal researchers/scholars to advance equity, protection and preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native religious freedom by furthering the following policy goals:

(1) Breaking down barriers and impediments to Tribal religious and ceremonial free exercise including access to medicines, prayer sites, sacred lands, and traditional foods.

(2) Strengthening the capacity of volunteer public private partnerships and their access to Federal programs that invest in conservation strategies, encourage and develop Federal partnerships with public, private, philanthropic, and non-profit entities to improve access to sacred lands, sites, and culturally significant landscapes.

(3) Creating opportunities for strategic partnerships and coordination among agencies and working closely with the Executive Office of the President on key Administration priorities related to Tribal religious and ceremonial free exercise.

(4) Serving as a liaison with other agencies, advise those agencies on implementation and enforcement of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act

(5) Monitoring state incursions on the American Indian Religious Freedom Act through legislative proposals such as legalization and/or decriminalization of Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*) and mescaline (3,4,5-trimethoxyphenethylamine).

(6) Collaborating with states, private landowners, Tribes, conservationists, Tribal researchers/scholars and other interested parties toward shared stewardship of sacred sites, medicines and traditional food ecosystems, culturally significant sites and sacred lands that respects private property rights, Tribal sovereignty, and state interest in wildlife management.

(7) Prioritizing Tribally led opportunities to establish new conservation efforts that protect and restore sacred lands, sites, medicine, ceremonial habitat, culturally significant places.

(8) Exploring policies that have Tribal implications and legislative proposals to expand opportunities for Tribal Nations' inclusion in Federal programs for the purpose of conserving sacred lands, places, sites, and culturally significant places.

(9) Furthering Tribal sovereignty by supporting efforts to cooperatively identify Tribal nations unique religious, ceremonial, and cultural needs, concerns, and viewpoints. Using the instruments of the Federal government to address these needs as permitted by law.

(10) increasing the understanding of systemic causes preventing access and protection of sacred places, lands, sites, medicines and traditional foods and protection of these places.

(c) To fulfill its mission and objectives, the Initiative (or Committee), shall be consistent with applicable law:

(1) Engage in regular and meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and religious ceremonial practitioners who are appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion and a federally recognized Tribal Nation.

(2) Develop, lead, and coordinate the Administration's policy agenda affecting American Indian religious freedom. Ensuring that policy decisions and programs throughout the Federal government are consistent with the Policy set forth in Section 1 of this order, the AIRFA of 1978, 1994, and EO 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments.

(3) Report concerns and solutions and recommend policy options to the Administration leadership and WHCAIA for assisting, strengthening, and replicating partnerships.

Section 3. *Promoting Inclusive and Responsible Federal Engagement Practices and Reporting.*

(a) Section 2 of this Order establishes the co-chairs, Executive Director and committee of the WHCAIA. Each executive branch agency with statutory or Administrative responsibility shall promote the policy in section (1) of this order and to implement and enforce the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, including but not limited to, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, Department of Justice, Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, Office of Management and Budget, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Drug Enforcement Administration, Food and Drug Administration, Bureau of Indian Education, Office of Indian Education, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Domestic Policy Council Advisory and Council on Historic Preservation.

(b) Within 120 days of the effective date of this order relevant Executive agencies will develop written plans for evaluating implementation of the 1978, 1994 American Indian Religious Freedom Act. These same agencies will further provide a schedule for meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations to ascertain their viewpoints on implementation of AIRFA both successes and recommendations for heightened implementation of the statute. Within six months the Administration will have completed the first round of Tribal Nation consultations and within one year the Initiative will have issued a report containing findings from Tribal nation consultations and Executive agencies internal evaluation of the Administrations implementation of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act securing the first review of the statute in 45 years.

(c) To further the goals of the Initiative and the policy objectives in Section 1, the Initiative shall monitor and evaluate each Federal agency's progress to ensure that its "Agency Plan" includes measurables and action-oriented goals.

(d) The Department of Interior shall provide funding and administrative support for the Initiative, to the extent permitted by law.

(e) Each relevant agency with representation on the WHCNAA shall prepare a plan (Agency Plan) outlining measurable actions the agency will take to both implement fully AIRFA and support maximum feasible Tribal religious free exercise and report to the Co-Chairs of the Initiative and the Director of the Initiative.

(f) Each participating agency shall bear its own expenses for participating in the Initiative.

Section 4. Definitions. For purposes of this order:

(a) “Tribal Nation” “Indian Tribe” means an American Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges as a federally recognized Tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. 5130,5131.

(b) “Tribal Official” means elected or duly appointed officials of Indian Tribal governments or authorized intertribal organizations.

(c) “Native American” and “Native” mean members of one or more federally recognized Tribal Nation as defined in 4(a) above.

(d) “Indian Country” means land that is located within the exterior boundaries of an Indian reservation.

(e) “Agency” means any authority of the United States that is an “agency” under 44 U.S.C. 502 (1), other than those considered to be independent regulatory agencies, as defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(5).

(f) “Tribal Religious Free Exercise” means American Indian Alaska Native religious and ceremonial freedom.

(g) “Ceremonial Practitioners” means enrolled members of federally recognized Tribes, Tribes who are authorized or ordained to practice, or lead bona fide Tribal ceremonies.

(h) “Historic Representative Bodies of the Native American Church” means long standing democratic organizations who are practitioners of the Peyote religion/ceremony and advocates on behalf of their respective constituency base.

(i) “Policies that have Tribal implications” refers to regulations, legislative comments or proposed legislation, and other policy statements or actions that have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian Tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes.

(j) “Sacred site(s), lands” and “Culturally significant places/lands” means any specific and or geographic area, landscape, bodies of water, place on Federal,

state, Tribal or private land that is identified by an Indian Tribe(s) or individual Indian determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion.

Section 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (1) The authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
- (2) The functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relate to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (3) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Mark Macarro
Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Brian Weeden
Mashpee Wampanoag

RECORDING SECRETARY

Nickolaus D. Lewis
Lummi Nation

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Chickasaw Nation

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Shinnecock Indian Nation

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Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Nation

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Jennifer Finley
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

SOUTHEAST

Reggie Tupponce
Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS

Reggie Wassana
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma

SOUTHWEST

Raymond Aguilar
Pueblo of Santo Domingo

WESTERN

Randi Lone Eagle
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Larry Wright, Jr.
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska



**The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #NO-23-057**

TITLE: Establishing a White House Initiative on Advancing Equity, Protection, and Preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native Religious and Ceremonial Freedom

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the cultural, ceremonial, and spiritual well being of American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples (AI/AN) was deemed a founding principle when NCAI was formed 80 years ago; and

WHEREAS, religious freedom is an inherent right for all people, guaranteed by the first amendment of the United States Constitution and affirmed under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978; and

WHEREAS, NCAI recognizes the need for heightened implementation of the 45-year-old American Indian Religious Freedom Act; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI Peyote Working Group has worked to create a consultative and inclusive proposed Executive Order to address the need for fuller implementation of the declaration contained within the AIRFA statute which makes it the policy of the United States to “protect and preserve American Indian and Alaska Native Religions”; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Executive Order includes the following provisions: 1) policy statement 2) mobilization of executive agencies to provide support for Free Exercise 3) establishment of an interagency working group through the WHCNAA 4) establishment of a White House Initiative Office.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support and endorse the proposed Executive Order submitted by the NCAI Peyote Working Group (included); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI does declare the condition of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples religions and ceremonial practices as vulnerable and urges the White House to adopt this proposed Executive Order; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.


CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2023 Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians, held November 12-17, 2023, in New Orleans, Louisiana, with a quorum present.



Mark Macarro, President

ATTEST:



Nickolaus Lewis, Recording Secretary

Addendum to Resolution NO-23-057

WORKING DRAFT**EXECUTIVE ORDER****ESTABLISHING WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE on ADVANCING EQUITY, PROTECTION, and PRESERVATION of AMERICAN INDIAN and ALASKA NATIVE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, in furtherance of Federal treaties, in order to protect and preserve Indian religious practices, in order to reduce the impositions and barriers preventing the full exercise of Indian religious freedoms and to enhance collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have implications on the fullest expression of Indian religious freedom, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. The United States has a unique political and legal relationship with federally recognized Tribal Nations, as set forth in the Constitution of the United States, statutes, treaties, Executive Orders, Administrative rules, and judicial decisions. The Federal Government is committed to protecting the rights and ensuring the well-being of Tribal Nations while honoring Tribal sovereignty and inherent rights of self-determination. No right is more crucial to Tribal Nations than the right to free exercise of their religious and ceremonial beliefs. In recognition of the Federal government's commitment to free exercise and the policy declaration contained within the 1978, 1994 (amended) American Indian Religious Freedom Act the Federal government has a solemn duty Tribal Nations. The entire Federal government and the executive departments and agencies are duty bound to advance religious, ceremonial protection, preservation and equity of Tribal Nations and their members to practice their religious and ceremonial beliefs.

Each executive branch agency with statutory or administrative responsibility will engage in government-to-government coordination with Tribal Nations to identify barriers to Tribal religious free exercise. The agencies will further engage in meaningful Tribal consultation to evaluate the implementation of the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

For more than two centuries the United States promulgated policies designed to eradicate American Indian and Alaska Native religions and ceremonies. The federally supported boarding schools were not just designed to assimilate Native Children, they were designed to eliminate the transmission of intergenerational religious and ceremonial practices. The Federally funded assimilation and corresponding proselytization of Native children is repudiated by my Administration.

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- (c) The Initiative shall be led by three co-chairs whom, shall be the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, and U.S. Attorney General. The Secretary of the Interior shall, in consultation with the other co-chairs of the initiative, designate an Executive Director for the Initiative. The Executive Director will chair a new committee (Committee) of the White House Council on American Indian Affairs (WHCAIA), established by Executive Order 13647 on June 26, 2013. The Committee will have a purview surrounding religious, ceremonial issues, sacred sites, cultural and language issues, public private partnerships in protection of sacred lands, and

implementation of existing statues and greater Tribal Nation inclusion in Federal programs and initiatives.

(d) The Initiative or committee shall consult and engage in meaningful consultations throughout Indian Country in collaboration with Tribal Nations, Alaska Native entities, religious and ceremonial leaders (medicine men and medicine women), historic representative bodies of federally recognized Tribal Native American Churches (Peyote practitioners), Tribal Historic Preservation officers, elders and designated surrogates of Tribal Nations, federally recognized Tribal researchers/scholars to advance equity, protection and preservation of American Indian and Alaska Native religious freedom by furthering the following policy goals:

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- (2) The functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relate to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
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This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.



NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

**P. O. Box 1424
New Town, ND 58763**

Executive Officers

President

Jon Brady
MHA Nation

Vice President

Joe Holgate
Dine' Nation

Secretary

Jessica Powless
Oneida Nation

Treasurer

Elroy Watson
Dine' Nation

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MB – Henry Traverse
SK – Robert Badger

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North Dakota

Milton Beston

South Dakota

Darrell Red Cloud

Texas

Isaac Cardenas

Utah

Sarah Fanman

Wisconsin

Buddy Powless

Wyoming

William Goggles

**TESTIMONY OF JON BRADY,
ARIKARA, MHA NATION
PRESIDENT, NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
FY 2025 BUDGET REQUEST
May 8, 2024**

Request: We request \$5 million for Peyote Habitat Conservation Initiative Demonstration Projects. To be housed at Department of Interior, Office of Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs.

Introduction

Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Members of the Committee. My name is Jon Brady, President of the Native American Church of North America (NACNA) I am honored to submit this written testimony to the subcommittee to provide the views of NACNA on the importance of preserving Peyote (*Lophophora Williamsii*) habitat and the need for the establishment of a program to coordinate this proposed initiative. Peyote is a domestically sourced medicine, a sacred medicine that is only produced by private landowners who voluntarily choose to maintain its natural habitat. Tribal member access to traditional medicines, in particular those that exist on private land, require creative partnerships, incentives, investments and a new framework for shared stewardship.

Proposed Peyote Habitat Demonstration Project

To counteract the rapidly fading Peyote habitat NACNA, with support of the National Congress of American Indians and numerous Peyote tribes, is requesting a Demonstration Peyote Habitat Project funded in the amount of \$5 million. This demonstration project would invest in private landowners for maintaining the Peyote habitat they own, for converting land into Peyote habitat, and would fund activities that focus on conservation and managed harvest of Peyote that ensures perpetual yield. Tribal nations have engaged in the management and stewardship of the Peyote Gardens for thousands of years and bring a wealth of traditional knowledge to a private, public, tribal partnership. Interior must develop a new framework and alternative funding arrangements in the context of supporting the policy mandates contained within AIRFA. Peyote producers who voluntarily engage in the proposed Peyote Habitat Demonstration

Pilot become surrogates in helping the federal government's trust obligations to AIRFA. Currently there is 0% in federal funding dedicated to Peyote habitat conservation, despite billions of dollars in appropriations for conservation efforts. Tribal parity, Peyote Tribes parity and parity for the Peyote plant are fundamental human rights.

Why It Matters To Indian Country, How It Could Work

The proposed Peyote Habitat Demonstration Project offers a partial fulfillment of a promissory note that the federal government signed when it enacted the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA). AIRFA addressed as a policy declaration equality of opportunity, extending it to the American Indian for the first time in our nation's history.

To implement the proposed Peyote Habitat Demonstration Project we recommend that the Demonstration project be guided by a steering committee that would have representation from federally recognized tribes, tribal hereditary ceremonial leaders and organizations such as NACNA and Native American Church of Oklahoma, State and federal agencies that administer conservation programs, federal agencies with jurisdiction over Peyote, and farming and ranching associations that represent the interest of relevant private landowners. The committee will work collaboratively to create and implement a regional Peyote conservation plan for the managed revitalization and managed harvest of Peyote. The committee will also guide the investments made by the grant program to maximize long-term Peyote habitat protection through land use contracts, conservation easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

Continued Challenges to American Indian Religious Freedom

Congress in the form of a joint resolution ushered in significant policy mandates through passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) of 1978, Congress declared: *That henceforth it shall be the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiians including but not limited to access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and freedom to worship through ceremonies and traditional rites.* Since its passage each subsequent Administration has oscillated in fully exercising this policy mandate, yet in 2023 it remains the policy of the United States to protect all facets of American Indian Religious Freedom. Peyote and the Native American Church fall under the protection of this United States policy.

In 1994 Congress passed amendments to AIRFA specifically addressing legal protection for members of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes of Peyote use, acquisition, and transportation. Congress, however, has yet to protect or incentivize the protection of the Peyote cacti *Lophophora Williamsii* and its habitat. Peyote only grows naturally in one geographic region of America (southwestern Texas along the border and Rio Grand River).

All Peyote habitat is within the nexus of private land, meaning access to Peyote, the harvesting of Peyote and preservation of Peyote habitat is contingent on volunteer partnerships between private landowners and stakeholders. Peyote habitat is known to all Native American Church Members as the Peyote Gardens. It is also acknowledged by all participating tribes as a "sacred place". For the 300,000 members of the Native American Church, this reality makes the fullest expression of our freedom to live our way of life and the ceremonial protocols that go along with it nearly impossible. If Peyote habitat cannot be protected and preserved, Peyote will no longer be accessible to the Native American Church. Without Peyote as a sacrament, our protocol to communicate with the Creator cannot exist, nor can full unequivocal protection of American Indian Religious Freedom.

Trust Overview, Measurable Trust Standards

Improving outcomes of cultural, language, sacred sites, historic preservation, and rights of American Indians to live our way of life is a high priority in Indian country, this Subcommittee, and the Biden Administration. The extent that the federal government is fulfilling its trust responsibility to the protection of American Indian Religious Freedom is demonstrated in studies and reports that document the rapid decline of Peyote habitat. This subcommittee has a broad-reaching trust corpus and shares measurable Trust Standards with the Administration because it provides both resources and oversight through the appropriations process. Fiduciary duties owed to the trust beneficiary must be administered within the context of the unique character and nature of the trust responsibility of the United States to Federally recognized Indian tribes. The trust corpus surrounding American Indian Religious Freedom and Peyote/ Native American Church can be summarized as: Protect American Indian access to sacred lands that encompass the Peyote Gardens, protect against degradation of Peyote habitat through public/private partnerships and ensure that there will be a perpetual supply of Peyote for American Indian members of the Native American Church used only for bona fide peyote ceremonies.

To further the Federal Government's commitment to improving maximum American Indian participation in their freedom to live their way of life, a comprehensive **Peyote Habitat Initiative** is needed to:

- 1) Coordinate federal conservation programs in a targeted program that is accessible, identifiable, and funded at a level to ensure that private landowners will view conservation investments as commensurate incentives to preserve their Peyote habitat.
- 2) Help tribal governments meet the unique ceremonial needs of their Native American Church members from the youngest to the oldest by partnering with private landowners to preserve their Peyote habitat.
- 3) Protect Peyote habitat from the promulgation of adverse rules, regulations from federal agencies that are incongruent with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, particularly federal subsidies that incentivize the plowing of Peyote habitat under the purview of soil enhancement, range improvement, and grazing development.
- 4) Promote intergovernmental (tribal/federal) collaboration in coordination with public/private partners.

Peyote Habitat Conservation Barriers

Destruction of Peyote habitat at its current rate will leave wild Peyote in its natural state unsustainable in one generation. Challenges to Peyote habitat such as development, urban sprawl, road construction, wind farms, oil pads, and agricultural practices require creative solutions that strike a balance between private landowners, their economic pursuits, and American Indian concerns for the Peyote.

An emerging concern to NACNA is the root plowing of thousands of acres of Peyote habitat. A myriad of federal programs in various government agencies unwittingly invest in the destruction of Peyote habitat through programs that invest in grazing improvements, rural development improvements, soil conservation, and soil improvement. USDA is a primary funder through its Natural Resources Conservation Services agency.

NACNA believes Congress and the Administration can honor both private landowner rights and Native American Church members rights with equal zeal. It all starts with the removal of barriers to habitat conservation. Additional threats have emerged from pharmaceutical companies and the psychedelic renaissance community. Vast efforts throughout the country are gaining momentum through state legislatures and initiative processes funded by special interest to legalize psychedelics including mescaline derived from Peyote for therapy.

The tribal stewardship of the Peyote gardens which dates thousands of years is being undermined by upstart nonprofit /non-governmental organizations that have allied with wealthy donors and pharmaceutical companies to advance an agenda that will mainstream traditional medicines including Peyote and heritage molecules such as mescaline. These entities and corporations are not interested in consulting with the historical representative bodies of the Native American Church or federally recognized Indian tribes. They wish to exploit a resource that is a sacred medicine to us.

The growing interest in Peyote and mescaline can only add to existing challenges to the Peyote habitat such as escalation of land prices, range war with leases, access for ceremonial harvest, price of medicine and an acceleration of illegal Peyote harvest and illegal distribution. As challenges mount, we remain steadfast in our tribal commitment to a ceremonial way of life and our values to not profit, exploit, use for self-gain, or sell our traditional heritage knowledge or the heritage molecules extracted from a medicine that we have had stewardship of for thousands of years. The disingenuous efforts of rogue non representative nonprofits, corporate interests, pharmaceutical companies, and psychedelic zealots have nothing to do with nor have any true knowledge of our ceremonial Peyote practices and our core values as fellow Americans.

Conclusion

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act remains among the most significant pieces of Indian legislation ever enacted. In a bipartisan spirit, Congressional leaders reaffirmed the House and Senate's plenary power over Indian Affairs and Tribes. They used this power as a tool or instrument for good in preserving ceremonial integrity. AIRFA is a valid and constitutionally sound exercise of the "plenary authority" over Indian Affairs that Congress has exercised since the founding of this country. AIRFA was enacted pursuant to Congressional responsibility for the protection and preservation of Indian Tribes and their resources and the United States direct interest, as a trustee, in protecting American Indian and Alaska Native hereditary ceremonies practiced since time immemorial for the benefit of members of a federally recognized Indian tribe.

The 300,000 plus members of the Native American Church, including me, are the beneficiaries of both the traditional knowledge our ancestors gifted us and the federal trust responsibility that this subcommittee is exercising in these hearings and their daily work.

We are articulating a crisis; we are providing a partial solution to this profound crisis; and we are extending our hand in partnership so that we can meet this great challenge together.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jon Brady, President
Native American Church of North America



JOINT ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

CEREMONIAL AND CULTURAL DISPOSSESSION, EXPLOITATION, AND INADEQUATE CONSULTATION

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS, NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF
NORTH AMERICA, NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH OF OKLAHOMA

As a coalition of stakeholders representing the interest of American Indian Religious Freedom and the Native American Church's Peyote practitioners, we are deeply alarmed and concerned at the accelerating attempts of pharmaceutical companies to appropriate traditional plant knowledge and traditional plant medicines, in particular, mescaline derived or synthesized from Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*). In response to this, and other similar events, we are requesting that both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) engage in government-to-government consultation on the issue of patenting medical treatments or other inventions based on and/or utilizing Peyote, its derivatives, and/or any synthetic variants as soon as possible and, in any case, prior to any patents being issued and/or any approvals of any kind being authorized for production or use.

This request is being made because recently, Journey Colab¹ a pharmaceutical company, applied for "patents" and FDA approval to synthesize mescaline and offer corresponding proprietary therapy for the treatment of addiction and other mental health disorders. We understand that the same company has marketed to both investors and the FDA a pharmaceutical business model based on shared benefit, reciprocity, and founding equity for relevant Indigenous Peyote communities. Further, Journey Colab claims to have engaged in a consultation process² inspired by the United Nations Framework of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)). Regarding its advancement of patent applications and pursuit of FDA approval, Journey Colab is claiming to be, "one of the first psychedelic drug development companies to implement consultation with Indigenous communities regarding access and benefit sharing, with a consultation process inspired by the United Nations international human rights standards of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent and the Nagoya Protocol" and has further stated that "Journey Colab has committed to access and benefit sharing with Indigenous communities through the creation of the Journey Reciprocity Trust."

¹ Journey Colab Home <https://www.journeycolab.com>

² Journey Colab Consultation Process <https://www.journeycolab.com/consultation-process>

The Native American Church of North America (NACNA) conducted inquiries to Jeeshan Chowdhury (Co-Founder & CEO of Journey Colab) and Sutton King (former Chief Impact Officer) to find out how Journey Colab conducted their consultation and obtained consent from Indigenous Peyote communities. NACNA also requested copies of their consultation record and a listing of the individuals and organizations that were represented during the consultation process. To date, Journey Colab has neither provided a list of who they consulted with nor provided verification that these claimed individuals and “Indigenous representatives” were authorized by the organizations or Indigenous communities they purported to represent. There has been no release of the “findings” or reports documenting consultation and no verifiable mechanism that FPIC was sought from relevant Peyote communities or Tribal Nations.

The Native American Church of North America, Native American Church of Oklahoma, and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) declare that these historical institutions of representation, which have been entrusted by Indian country to advocate on behalf of the Native American Church, were not consulted, were not offered an opportunity to express viewpoints concerning the commercialization of our heritage molecule extracted from Peyote, and were not apprised that any consultations were, in fact, taking place. Given the information we have at this moment in time, we have no choice but to express our crucial concern for the legitimacy of Journey Colab’s claims.

Tribal Nations are undeniable stakeholders in culturally sacred items—such as Peyote—and our voices must not be allowed to be usurped by corporations and other non-governmental organizations, and then sanctioned by the U.S. government. Journey Colab and their unidentified consultation participants are symptomatic of a deeper problem of states and entities claiming to respect and be inclusive of Indigenous and tribal voices, but neglecting to include any voice that may express cultural principles contrary to the preordained direction of such states, corporations, and entities.

However, of bigger concern, is that Journey Colab’s actions are representative of a much larger issue whereby pharmaceutical companies are developing products based on Indigenous traditional knowledge that holds cultural and religious significance to Indigenous Peoples and are then turning to the U.S. government to provide legal recognition of rights in those developments by issuing patents and other approvals. Before such legal recognitions are granted, however, the United States must consult with Tribal Nations when the items being commodified and commercialized are exploiting Indigenous traditional knowledge and practice. The United States has a government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations as well as a unique set of duties under the trust and treaty responsibilities to act in the best interest of Tribal Nations when possible. This relationship is grounded in the U.S. Constitution, present in hundreds of treaties, and has been reaffirmed time and again by the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Congress.

The need for consultation with the U.S. PTO is especially critical due to the lack of existing legal recognition and protection for Indigenous Peoples’ rights within the U.S. intellectual property system. Efforts are underway to address this gap at the international level in negotiations taking place at the World Intellectual Property Organization. The negotiations are aimed at developing international legal instruments for the protection of Indigenous Peoples’ traditional knowledge and

traditional cultural expressions, including knowledge and practices associated with sacred plant medicine such as Peyote. The U.S. PTO represents the United States in these negotiations. Although the negotiations have been ongoing for over two decades, the U.S. PTO has never engaged in formal government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations concerning them and has repeatedly taken positions in the negotiations contrary to tribal interests. In view of this grave dereliction, NCAI passed a resolution in 2016 calling for formal government-to-government consultation regarding the negotiations and six years later, following a continued lack of action, renewed the call by resolution in 2022. Although the U.S. PTO has indicated consultations will be held at some point, to date no consultations have been scheduled. The U.S. PTO should move forward expeditiously to schedule the initial round of consultation and additional consultations should occur on a regular basis as the negotiations are ongoing.

For all the foregoing reasons, NACNA, the Native American Church of Oklahoma, and NCAI are requesting that both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office engage in government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations on the issue of patenting medical treatments or other inventions based on and/or utilizing Peyote, its derivatives, and/or any synthetic variants as soon as possible and, in any case, prior to any patents being issued and/or any approvals of any kind being authorized for production or use.



Fawn Sharp, President, National Congress of American Indians



Jon Brady, President, Native American Church of North America



John Arkeketa, President, Native American Church of Oklahoma

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Native American Church of North America

P.O. Box 1424
New Town, ND 58763



Resolution No. 24-02-JPW

Resolution Entitled: OPPOSING THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF Mescaline

WHEREAS, Under Article 2, of the By-Laws of the Native American Church of North America, Inc. ("NACNA"), It is the Mission of NACNA to Protect the Sacramental use of Peyote; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Church of North America, Inc. supports the full implementation of P.L. 95-341, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act ("AIRFA"), which was signed into federal law on August 11, 1978, which Declares that it is the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions of the American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and Native Hawaiians, including but not limited to access to sites, use, and possession of sacred objects and freedom to worship through ceremonies and traditional rites; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Church of North America, Inc. supports the full implementation and enforcement of P.L. 103-344, the 1994 Peyote Amendments to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act ("AIRFA"), which legally requires that only members of a federally recognized "Tribe" are legally allowed to use, possess and transport the medicine Peyote, so long as the Peyote is used in a bona fide manner for traditional ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of a traditional Indian religion is; and

WHEREAS, from time immemorial, it has been known by American Indians that the Medicine Peyote possess a "holy spirit", which today, scientists have named "Mescaline"; and

WHEREAS, there are significant movements by non-Indians, acting in their capacities as pharmaceutical corporations or active participants in the Psychedelic Renaissance, to decriminalize mescaline from its current classification as a Schedule I controlled substance, for the sole purpose of extracting Mescaline from natural medicines to be used and marketed for profit by non-members of federally recognized tribes outside the legally established usage parameters of a bona fide traditional ceremonial purpose in connection with the practice of a traditional Indian religion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Native American Church of North America, Inc. opposes the decriminalization and patent of Peyote, its derivatives, and / or any synthetic variants drawn from Peyote to include but not limited to Mescaline.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the NACNA 75th Annual Convention in Winnebago, Nebraska, United States of America on June 15, 2024. The resolution passed with **39** In Favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions.


Jon Brady, President
Native American Church of North America

Jessica Powless Williams
Jessica Powless Williams, Secretary/Editor



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution ECWS-22-009

TITLE: Affirming Support for the American Indian Religious Freedom Act as Amended and Calling for Federal Preemption as it Pertains to the Legalization and/or Decriminalization of Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*) and its Byproducts

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Peyote plant is sacred to many American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Peoples; and

WHEREAS, certain lands in Texas, the American Southwest, and Mexico are places of spiritual importance and are the only place on Mother Earth where the sacred Peyote plant still grows wild; and

WHEREAS, in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) as amended, Congress recognized that "for many Indian people, the traditional ceremonial use of the peyote cactus as a religious sacrament has for centuries been integral to a way of life, and significant in perpetuating Indian tribes and cultures;" and further provided that "the use, possession, or transportation of peyote by an Indian for bona fide traditional ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of a traditional Indian religion is lawful, and shall not be prohibited by the United States or any State"; and

WHEREAS, the AIRFA affirms use of Peyote only in "bona fide ceremonies" for use only by members of Indian tribes as defined in the AIRFA amendment of 1994, in order to ensure this traditional medicine is protected; and

WHEREAS, Peyote has been consumed by the Indigenous Peoples of present-day North and South America for religious, cultural, and ceremonial purposes since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the number of Peyote plants has decreased drastically in recent years, threatening the long-term sustainability of the current wild populations, and depleting the number of plants that could be available for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Peyote is a slow-growing plant, and it can take more than a decade to reach maturity; and

WHEREAS, the current Peyote population has suffered from habitat destruction, harmful ranching practices, illegal poaching, and non-holistic harvesting approaches; and

WHEREAS, Peyote, like all living things, is affected by climate change and faces threats to its very existence; and

WHEREAS, the International Union for Conservation of Nature has already categorized Peyote as a vulnerable species; and

WHEREAS, widescale personal and corporate cultivation of the Peyote plant threatens the historical and cultural biological integrity of the plant by potentially exposing the population to hybridization, genetic modification, and sterilization, all of which is in violation of federal law regarding restrictions on Peyote use; and

WHEREAS, the legalization and decriminalization of Peyote consumption beyond the already hundreds of thousands of members of the Native American Church will create a demand and market for Peyote that further threatens the existing wild population; and

WHEREAS, the movement to legalize and/or decriminalize Peyote use at the state and local government level directly threatens the availability of Peyote and therefore threatens the integrity of the ceremonial use of Peyote by AI/AN people and would be contrary to the doctrine of federal preemption, whereby federal law supersedes state law in this area; and

WHEREAS, resolution SAC-21-038 was passed at NCAI's 2021 Annual Conference and the title does not accurately reflect the contents of the resolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) opposes the legalization and decriminalization of Peyote at the federal, state, and local government levels except for use "by an Indian for bona fide traditional ceremonial purposes", and further opposes the extraction of mescaline from the Peyote plant for any reason other than these ceremonial purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls upon the federal government to exercise its prerogatives under the doctrine of federal preemption to block state and local governments efforts to legalize and decriminalize Peyote use, in violation of AIRFA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI calls upon the White House Council on Native American Affairs, in coordination with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Homeland Security, the Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Environmental Protection Agency, and any additional federal departments and agencies with relevant responsibilities, to: (1) convene and conduct a review of federal programs to determine a culturally-sensitive approach to facilitating the protection of Peyote habitats and the restoration of Peyote populations in the wild; (2) identify funding to address the threats to the long-term viability of the Peyote plant; and (3) to address other impediments to the legitimate use of Peyote, such as cross-border restrictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCAI opposes efforts by states and local governments to legalize, decriminalize, or otherwise authorize any and all uses of Peyote and its byproducts by non-American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/ANs) Peoples as it endangers AI/AN religious, cultural, and ceremonial practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI calls upon state and local governments to accord the principles of respect and recognition to federal and tribal laws regarding the religious, cultural, and ceremonial significance of the Peyote plant to AI/AN Peoples, to respect the documented decline of the Peyote habitat and current efforts underway to protect Peyote from further decline, and to respect the clearly articulated congressional intent to protect the sacred plant as found in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act as amended; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

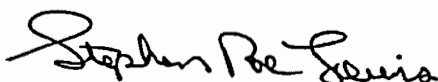
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Committee at the Executive Council Winter Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held February 13-14, 2022, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Stephen Roe Lewis, Recording Secretary

July 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council moving the **Legislation # 131-24, Sponsored by Council Delegates George Tolth and Helena Nez-Begay.**


In 1994, Congress passed the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1994 (AIRFAA), for the protected use of peyote in bona-fide traditional ceremonial purposes in connection with the practice of traditional Indian religion by federally recognized tribes. I understand this is to protect the use of peyote and all properties within the peyote, including "mescaline." I learned from my elders who are medicine practitioners that mescaline, is the soul, spirit and healing power of peyote. Because of limited resources to regulate the protection of peyote and its property mescaline, loopholes have surfaced, including peyote and mescaline decriminalization efforts at state and federal levels. This is due to the pirating efforts by pharmaceutical, private, and psychedelic interests.

Today, the psychedelic renaissance, pharmaceutical, and non-Indian interest in peyote and mescaline have caused serious concerns regarding the violation of AIRFAA, the Drug Abuse Control Act Amendments of 1965, Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Controlled Substance Act of 1970 (PL 91-513) , Navajo Bill of Rights, Title 17 of the Navajo Code (NOTE: peyote and mescaline recognized as a Controlled I Substance under federal and Navajo law cannot be separated). I strongly encourage the inclusion of mescaline within the proposed legislation.

I support and appreciate the 25th Navajo Nation Council's leadership in protecting our Navajo Way of Life. I respectfully request that you pass the proposed legislation. Ahé hee.

I attend Azeé Bee Nahaghá of Diné Nation meetings. District 3 ABNDN Chapters (Coalmine, Tuba City, Cameron and Gap/Bodaway) had meetings and this proposed legislation was presented and a resolution was passed supporting the Opposition to Decriminalization of Peyote and Mescaline. Coalmine Canyon Chapter, the Western Agency Council and Western Agency Veterans Organization have passed resolutions Opposing the decriminalization of Peyote and Mescaline.

Respectfully,


Lehora Hatathlie

[Redacted] Tuba City, AZ [Redacted]

Registered NN voter of Coalmine Canyon Chapter
Veteran

Commander of Tsé Kó Hasaní Veterans Organization
ABNDN member with Coalmine Canyon ABNDN
ABNDN Executive Secretary 2008-2012

Legislation #131-24

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