

More information or an interview, contact: Fern Benally, Dziłiiji Bee Ahota', Inc., (BMU – DzBA) board member, (702) 415-5306.

Dziłiiji Bee Ahota', Inc., (BMU – DzBA) Press Release on

Navajo Nation Council Resolution 0523-10: Title 18 Amendment.

Special Session Hearing 22 December 2010

8 AM Quality Inn, Window Rock, AZ

12 PM Council Chambers, Window Rock, AZ

We are Black Mesa United – Dziłiiji Bee Ahota', Inc., (BMU - DzBA), and are composed of Peabody Western Coal Company lease area residents. We have and are heavily impacted by the surface mining operation. Through the unification under one organizational name, we not only voice our concerns but provide a sound unison solution driven Natural Resource management for a better and safe energy policy development, as it impacts the sustainability of the people. Furthermore we observed that the U.S. Presidential Executive Order 13175 Tribal Consultation and Coordination provides Tribal Governments an opportunity to participate in any major Federal policy, statutory and code changes, that impacts its Tribal citizens and lands. We believe our Tribal Government exercise the same business practices to us as citizens of the Navajo Nation, so that we are actively at the table and be integrated into the administrative procedural process. Furthermore, we as Navajo Nation citizens and as organization believe any natural resources that sustain us (people) but our government (federal and tribal) opted to use for energy development, to be given an active voice during the consultation, negotiation, and approval process. This will allow us to be actively part of the process in protecting our long term viability and sustainability of our natural resources and continuous improvement of quality of life standards. With the Title 18 up for amendments, we proposed an amendment done to allow Navajo citizens and stakeholders whom are impacted to have an active voice through the process (consultations, public hearings, approvals) and have an active representation on the negotiating team which its government convened. We urge you (Navajo Nation Council) to support the passing of the Title 18 Amendment Resolution, and we need support from the community at large from the Navajo Nation as this proposed resolution impact you as well, when pertaining to minerals. We have received 31 Chapter Resolution and 3 of 5 Agency Legislative Council resolution support across the Navajo Nation.

For more information on the event or questions, contact Fern Benally at (702) 415-5306.