



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President & Vice President

# *Proclamation*

## *Recognizing and Supporting the Longest Walk 5*

**WHEREAS**, In 1978, in response to legislative bills in Congress that would have abrogated treaties for Indigenous Native Nations that protect remaining Native sovereignty, Native American activists and supporters marched 3,600 miles from California to Washington, D.C. in an extraordinarily successful grassroots effort that defeated said bills; and

**WHEREAS**, In February 2008, in celebration of the 30 years of the first Longest Walk, indigenous people and people from around the world celebrated the feat under the banner *All Life is Sacred – Save Mother Earth – Protect Sacred Sites*; and


**WHEREAS**, Indigenous peoples throughout the western hemisphere have always lived in honor of Mother Earth and Father Sky. Our traditional Dine beliefs are deep rooted in the creation stories, songs and prayers and as leaders, our supreme duty and responsibility is to protect life; and

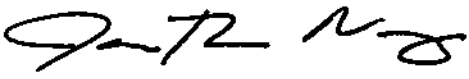
**WHEREAS**, We recognize that the issue of sacred sites is an issue of freedom of religion and therefore must be defended and that all treaties dealing with the sovereignty of Indian Nations must be respected; and

**WHEREAS**, We further recognize the devastation of drugs, domestic violence, and high rate of suicide among our Indian people nationwide, and we support the purpose of the Longest Walk 5, which is to bring awareness and to educate our people and seeks answers and solutions to these challenges.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, The Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice President hereby endorses the Longest Walk 5 and urges the citizens of the Navajo Nation to support and participate in these events and occasions.

Proclaimed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

  
Russell Begaye, President  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

  
Jonathan Nez, Vice President  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**