



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

October 30, 2017

Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: State and Tribal Gasoline Taxes

Honorable Members of the Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee:

The Navajo Nation would like to formally state its opposition to the proposed "New Mexico Tax at the Rack" Bill. The Nation is of the opinion that the Bill would not only be a gross intrusion upon tribal sovereignty, but also, negatively impact an already disparate population.

The fuel excise tax provided for in the Bill would create dual taxation on the Navajo Reservation and other Indian reservations. If approved, distributors would be required to pay both Fuel Excise Tax "at the Rack" and tax to tribes.

The dual taxation of retailers operating on Indian reservations like the Navajo Nation will cause the prices of gas purchased on Indian reservations to increase, thereby harming the most vulnerable populations. The Navajo Nation, like other tribal nations, is an already depressed economy with 50% of our population being currently unemployed and a large majority of our population relying on a fixed income.

The Navajo Nation respectfully requests that the Honorable Members of the Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee reject the proposed "New Mexico Tax at the Rack" Bill to protect tribal sovereignty and an already disparate population.

Respectfully,

THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Begaye".

Russell Begaye, *President*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Nez".

Jonathan Nez, *Vice President*