

Advisory Committee 11-16-2023

Nadazbaa is my warrior name. My government name is Ida Yellowman. My mother's clan TI'aashchi'i. My maternal grandfather is the Ashihi people.

My father's clan is Todachinnie. My paternal grandfather is Hona'gha'ahnii.

This is the Dine' woman I am.

As I give you the clans I come from, I want you to think of it in the way I'm going to tell you in what it means to be of the Dine' people. The names of the clans I said to you are a description of geographical areas where these people lived. I know where my mother's people came from and I identify myself by this clan here in this world and all the way back to the beginning. This makes me the Dine' woman I am.

Good morning, the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names and its subcommittees.

I want to say thank you to all of you. Right about now you are feeling tired, worn down, disagreeable, and feelings of why am I even doing this? You are all doing this amazing work for those of us who are the grassroots people back home. I want you to know that we are with you in prayers and thoughts each day you get together as you do this work that is directly connected to the ancestors that were killed, murdered and raped for this very land you talk about each day. The ancestors pushed through these acts of violence to get us here today. That's why it gets harder each day as you discussed the names of places that are home to us and that are scared and holy to us. It can feel like a thankless job. But I thank you, we thank you the grassroots people who are non-English speaking and those who have other own language. I say thank you for the ancestors who are no longer here. You have pushed through today's violence and unsettled state of affairs and I say thank you for the all those who still coming in the future.

I wish you could remember that the grassroots people like my Mom and Dad who prayed for this kind of intervention to happen by our young people to preserve Ancestral Lands by their correct indigenous names. It's our last effort as indigenous people to this land to hold onto what the Creator created for us. That's what the non-English speaking and those who speak our languages are saying in our prayers. Thank you for the doing these tedious long work days you

did in conference with each other. You only have each other to do this work. We only have you to look to, to do this work. I'm ending this prayer by saying, hozo'na'ha'saa'gii' – there is beauty all around me. (Say it with me four times)

Hozo'na'ha'saa'gii' – my world is in harmony all around me.

Hozo'na'ha'saa'gii' – I am one with the universe.

Hozo'na'ha'saa'gii' – I am in a balanced state of mind, body and spirit in my world.