



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee approves legislations to tax “junk foods” and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables

WINDOW ROCK – The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee met on Wednesday, to discuss Legislation No. 0289-13 and Legislation No. 0290-13, a conjoined effort to implement a two-percent tax on certain “junk foods” and beverages and to eliminate the sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables on the Navajo Nation.

On Oct. 15, the HEHSC voted to delete both legislations from their agenda, to allow for the legislation sponsor Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) to work with various Navajo Nation entities to improve the language of both legislations.

“Every single day we face health issues like cancer and diabetes. The taxation of junk food is one way we can go about addressing this issue,” said Delegate Simpson. “We have worked with the Navajo Tax Commission, Navajo Division of Health, and Division of Community Development to improve this legislation according to the HEHSC’s recommendations.”

Following the presentation, HEHSC member Council Delegate Kenneth Maryboy (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tófikán, Red Mesa) said he supported both legislations, but would consider the needs of people already living with such health conditions.

“In our [Navajo] culture, we use food as a way to celebrate during traditional ceremonies, revivals, and peyote meetings. I would like to know if anyone is monitoring the soda we drink and the mutton stew we eat after those gatherings,” said Delegate Maryboy. “We need to help educate our people about making healthy choices everyday.”

HEHSC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) said he believes there is a better to influence food choices besides imposing taxes, add that he would support the legislation if the proposed tax was instead decreased to one-percent.

Speaking in favor of the legislation, HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) suggested that the sponsor work with the Indian Health Service to coordinate a study that evaluates “junk food” purchases on the Nation.

“If this legislation passes, I would like for us to monitor its progress within the first three years of its implementation,” said HEHSC vice chair Council Delegate Charles Damon II (Bááháálí,

Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh). "This way we can find out if this initiative really works."

Delegate Damon proposed an amendment to attach additional supporting exhibits to the legislation and to include language that requires a review of the taxation process in three years.

HEHSC members approved the amendment with a vote of 3-0, and passed Legislation No. 0289-13 with a vote of 2-1.

Following the vote, the HEHSC unanimously passed Legislation No. 0290-13 with a vote of 3-0.

The legislations will be considered by the Navajo Nation Council for final approval.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Oct. 31, 2013

Navajo President Shelly States Support for NTEC Purchase of Mine

WINDOW ROCK, A.Z. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly stated his support for Navajo Energy Transitional Company’s purchase agreement of Navajo Mine from BHP-Billiton. The two companies signed a purchase agreement earlier today.

“I support NTEC and their agreement to purchase Navajo Mine from BHP-Billiton. We have to preserve existing jobs on the Navajo Nation and today NTEC is taking a step in the saving more than 800 jobs and revenue for the Navajo general fund.

With the Navajo Nation Energy Policy and Navajo Mine ownership, we are solidifying a Navajo energy future that includes coal, solar, wind, gas, oil, and other forms of energy. Our future is stronger with the Energy Policy, and that strength secures the future of Navajo Mine.

We have much work before us for NTEC to become full owners of Navajo Mine. We have intelligent and competent Navajo people leading the charge for the Navajo Nation’s newest venture into energy.

For the Navajo Nation, we must remain vigilant to protect our vested interests in Navajo energy, and keep our eyes on the future because the work we do today is for our grandchildren. Our future children are our most precious resource.”

Navajo Mine has approximately 430 employees, 85 percent of whom are Native American, and has supplied fuel to the Four Corners Power Plant for 50 years. The mine supplied the Navajo Nation more than \$40 million in revenue in 2011.

NTEC is the newest enterprise of the Navajo Nation.

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NDOT partners with chapter and county for paving projects



The Navajo Division of Transportation partnered with Tohajiilee Chapter and Bernalillo County Public Works Division to pave two miles of road in Tohajiilee. Above, Medicine Horse Road, providing chapter members with access to Behavioral Health Services and the Tohajiilee Health Clinic, was recently paved by the county. Under terms of the agreement, NDOT and Tohajiilee Chapter contributed asphalt, while Bernalillo County contributed equipment and manpower for the project, which totaled over \$1.4 million. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

ALBUQUERQUE-Partnership is the future of transportation.

In an industry where paving one mile of roadway at a cost of \$1 million is not uncommon, stretching that transportation dollar is more important than ever in this age of sequestration and budget cuts.

Navajo Division of Transportation teamed up with Bernalillo County Public Works Division and the Tohajiilee Chapter to pave two miles of road in the community. The paving project is for access roads connecting the community with healthcare facilities and the chapter house.

On Oct. 25, 2013, all three entities met at the Public Works Division in Albuquerque to discuss progress on the project and to prepare for the final phase of paving.

NDOT director Paulson Chaco said the collaboration with the chapter and county was crucial to providing residents with accessibility to their facilities.

“Partnering with the chapter and county, we provided asphalt, which was utilized to pave two miles of road in Tohajiilee,” Chaco said. “There is still another mile that will be paved.”

Bernalillo County matched NDOT and the chapter dollar for

dollar, with in-kind services to pave the roadway, utilizing their own equipment and manpower.

NDOT contributed 7,360.26 tons of warm mix asphalt at a cost of \$441,785.75 which was paid in Sept. 2013. Tohajiilee Chapter contributed 4,432 tons of warm mix asphalt at a cost of \$295,000 which was paid in July 2013.

The two Navajo entities contributed a total of \$736,785.75 toward the project, which was matched by Bernalillo County for a total project cost of \$1,473,571.50 to pave two miles of road in Tohajiilee and one mile of road owned by the county.

The symbiotic nature of the agreement allowed Bernalillo County to use a portion of the asphalt surplus to pave a one mile segment of a frontage road in their jurisdiction, just off I-40, near the casino owned by Laguna Pueblo.

Laguna Pueblo recently acquired lands in the area outside the Tohajiilee reservation boundaries, near the improved roadway in the county’s jurisdiction.

After the one mile portion of the county road was paved, Laguna Pueblo approached the Mid-Region Council of Governments of

New Mexico to take over the road.

David Mitchell is the department director for Bernalillo County Operations and Maintenance.

Mitchell said the Bureau of Indian Affairs needed to be involved with the project to clear up jurisdictional issues that may arise in the future.

“BIA needs to get involved to say that’s a public road,” Mitchell said. “Of course (Laguna is) interested in taking over the road, we just finished paving it,” Mitchell said.

Chaco said NDOT would share design plans on the chapter access road with Bernalillo County before next paving effort in Tohajiilee.

The partnership formula is gaining traction and becoming more popular, because the cost of construction is divided between all the entities involved.

NDOT has long advocated for partnerships with the tribal, county, state and federal entities for road maintenance and construction.

“The counties have been doing this kind of work for a long time, especially McKinley County and Apache County in Arizona,” Chaco



NDOT director Paulson Chaco, center, said collaborating with tribal, county, state and federal entities has been crucial for road maintenance and construction projects on the Navajo Nation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

“Bureau of Indian Affairs needs to get involved to say that’s a public road. Of course they’re interested in taking over the road, we just finished paving it.”

said. “You’ve got to be innovative with stretching that dollar.”

Tohajiilee community services coordinator Nora Morris was not satisfied with recent developments and demanded more roads be paved for her chapter.

“That’s not my only road. Remember, there’s 68 miles on my reservation that needs to be paved,” Morris said.

For now, NDOT plans on finalizing the Tohajiilee paving project and begin preparation for the snow removal activities that will undoubtedly have the Department of Roads busy for the winter season.

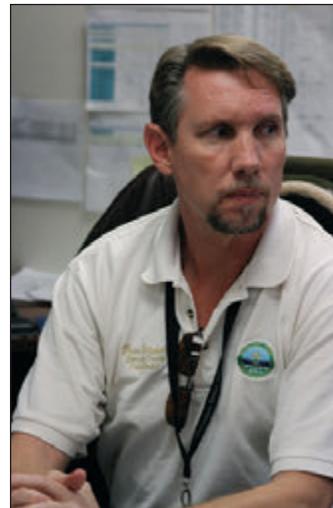
In addition to manpower, Bernalillo County utilized a bulldozer, two motor graders, a compactor, water truck, and several county trucks to complete the paving project near the Tohajiilee health centers.

During recent flooding in Sept., Bernalillo County road crews had to ensure the newly-paved road was not negatively impacted by flood waters.

Mitchell said, “They build a detention basin right in here. It traps the water that’s flowing down. Then it meters out and goes into a 24-inch culvert that’s under the road now.”

If weather permits, Bernalillo County road crews will be back out in Tohajiilee in two to three weeks to finalize the partnership project, paving the chapter house access road and hopefully connecting it to Medicine Horse Road near the medical clinic.

Information: www.navajodot.org



Left, Operations and Maintenance department director David Mitchell lauded the partnership with NDOT and Tohajiilee Chapter. He said it was probably the most cost effective way to pave. Right, Tom, project supervisor, made sure the paving crew stuck to the schedule and scope of work. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



A view of the newly-paved Medicine Horse Road, facing east. Another mile of paving remains to be completed for the Tohajiilee Chapter access road. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

P.O. Box 129
ST. MICHAELS, AZ 86511
PHONE: (928) 871-7436
FAX: (928) 871-7437

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2013

NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO CLOSE OFFICE FOR WORKSESSION ON STATUS OF NAVAJO WOMEN, GENDER VIOLENCE AND THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

ST. MICHAELS, NAVAJO NATION - The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission will close the office on Thursday, October 31, 2013 beginning at 8:00 a.m. through Friday, November 1, 2013 ending at 5:00 pm. The Commission and staff will host a work session on **The Status of Navajo Women, Gender Violence and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** at the Ft. Defiance Chapter House both days. The Commission will also conduct its November meeting on Friday, November 1, 2013 at the Ft. Defiance chapter house.

Please contact the Legislative Branch, Office of the Navajo Nation Speaker at 928-871-7160 to leave a message for the Commission or staff. NNHRC will resume its regular hours on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Resources and Development Committee approves financial audit and corrective action plan for Navajo Mountain Chapter

LECHEE, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee approved the financial audit and corrective action plan for the Navajo Mountain Chapter.

The audit was conducted and submitted by the Navajo Nation Office of the Auditor General and the Navajo Mountain Chapter submitted the corrective action plan with the assistance of the Local Governance Support Center.

“In collaboration between the new chapter officials, LGSC, and the auditor general, they were able to develop a corrective action plan in response to the findings in the audit report,” said legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin).

According to the audit report, there were three major findings: chapter internal controls were deficient, chapter did not consistently comply with applicable laws and funding guidelines, and \$129,000 in unauthorized checks were issued by the former Community Services Coordinator.

Auditor General Elizabeth Begay, stated that the audit findings are a result of the previous chapter administration that did not correctly account for spending, debauched reconciliation, lack of financial reports, misappropriation of funds, and other budget related issues.

“I am very surprised these sort of things are going on at such a small chapter because they are not dealing with large amounts of money or transactions. However, I am glad the current administration is doing their best to correct the problems,” said RDC member Leonard Pete (Chinle).

RDC member Council Delegate David Tom (Beclabito, Cove, Gad’i’ahí/Tó’koi, Red Valley, Sheep Springs, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé Ańáoz’tl’í) asked what would occur if the chapter did not implement the CAP.

“At this point, if the CAP is not implemented by the Navajo Mountain Chapter, or they do not adhere to the guidelines, there will be consequences and sanctions,” said Begay. “For instance, the official’s stipends could be withheld, or a 10 percent withholding of the operating budget.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) stressed the importance of financial check off sheets, reports, and other budget monitoring tools that are available to all chapters and programs for efficient record-keeping.

“The long-range vision of the CAP is for the Navajo Mountain Chapter to be government certified, and after approval of this legislation, they are closer in achieving this goal,” said Delegate Nez.

RDC voted 4-0 to approve Legislation 0259-13. The legislation now goes to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Speaker Naize and Delegate Bates continue to advocate for the approval of the Nation's Gaming Compact with the State of New Mexico



Photo: Speaker Johnny Naize, President Ben Shelly, and Council Delegate Lorenzo Bates discuss the proposed Gaming Compact between the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico with the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, on Oct. 25.

SANTA FE, N.M. –Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) and chair of the Naabik'íyátí Committee's Gaming Task Force Subcommittee Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland), met with the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee on Friday morning, to advocate for the approval of the proposed Gaming Compact between the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico.

Currently, the Nation is one of five tribes signed onto a 2001 Gaming Compact which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2015. The Nation entered into the Compact in 2003.

“The Navajo Nation’s current unemployment rate stands at 50-percent,” said Speaker Naize. “We are struggling and in need of economic development. This is why the jobs and revenue from our casinos are more important than ever before.”

Speaker Naize concluded his statements by assuring the state legislators that the proposed compact is fair and reasonable and will continue to benefit both parties.

In May 2012, the Navajo Nation began initial discussions with Gov. Susana Martinez's Lead Negotiator and after nine months of tough negotiating, an agreement was reached on the terms of the Compact.

On Mar. 8, Gov. Martinez submitted the Navajo Nation Compact to the Committee on Compacts which later recommended the approval of the Compact and submission of a joint resolution to the New Mexico Legislature for a vote.

Although the New Mexico Compact Negotiation Act requires the legislature to act without delay, the Gaming Compact was not placed on the Senate floor for a vote during the 2013 State Legislature's regular session.

In response to questions from the Legislative Finance Committee, Navajo Nation Department of Justice attorney Karis Begaye, explained that failure to approve the proposed Compact at the 2014 State Legislature's regular session would terminate the Compact and require a new one to be negotiated, in accordance with the New Mexico's Compact Negotiation Act.

We would have to issue another letter the Governor requesting for negotiations to open and begin the process again, said Begaye.

"For five years, we have patiently followed the process provided by the Compact Negotiation Act. It is the Nation's position that this Compact does not go back to the Committee on Compacts and should be moved to the House and Senate floor for a 'yes' or 'no' vote," Delegate Bates stated.

Delegate Bates also emphasized that the proposed Compact is an agreement between the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico and does not bind any other tribe.

The Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise currently owns and operates two Class III gaming facilities and one Class II gaming facility in the State of New Mexico.

The New Mexico State Legislature is scheduled to convene for its regular session in January.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**Speaker Naize signs several key legislations including
the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013 and amendments to NTEC**



Photo: Back row is Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler, Council Delegate George Apachito, and Council Delegate Charles Damon II. Front sitting is Council Delegate Mel Begay, Speaker Johnny Naize, and Council Delegate Roscoe Smith.

WINDOW ROCK – On Thursday afternoon, in the presence of dozens of legislative staff, media reporters, and spectators, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) signed and certified several significant legislations recently passed by the Navajo Nation Council.

During the signing ceremony, Speaker Naize addressed the passage of the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013, and expressed appreciation to members of the Resources and Development Committee for their active roles in developing the policy.

“It serves as guidance — a reference for bringing energy development to our Nation,” said Speaker Naize.

Also speaking at the ceremony was Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill), who sponsored the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013.

“This is a major initiative in which the Navajo Nation has entered, one is to develop a format that allows the Navajo Nation to engage in its own resources,” said Delegate Smith.

Speaker Naize also signed two separate legislations concerning the Nation’s possible acquisition of the BHP Navajo Mine, including authorizing \$4.1 million for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC for costs associated with the acquisition of the mine, and another legislation that amends the initial enabling resolution that established NTEC.

“As a leader of this Nation, we have to be very careful about how we manage our resources, in particular coal,” Speaker Naize said. “At the same time, the signing of the NTEC legislation does allow setting aside 10 percent of its profit for renewable energy so the Navajo Nation doesn’t concentrate only on burning coal, but we also look at renewable energy — solar, wind, and so forth.”

Council Delegate Mel Begay (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl’a’a’), who served as Speaker Pro Tem during several discussions and votes over the course of the Council’s Fall Session, extended his appreciation to his fellow Council colleagues for approving the NTEC legislations.

“I certainly want to express my appreciation to the Council for giving their support for the Nation to progress ahead and move forward to identify itself through its utilities and also through mineral development in an effort to bring prosperity to the Nation,” said Delegate Begay.

Also included in the signing ceremony, were the Navajo Housing Authority Reform Act of 2013 and an enabling legislation that authorizes the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission to implement and manage a 911 emergency response system for the Nation.

Immediately following the signing ceremony, the legislations were sent to President Ben Shelly’s office for his signature.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771

navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Oct. 24, 2013

Navajo President Shelly Signs Legislation for Energy Policy and Another for NTEC Funding



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly (center front) signs the legislation that created the Navajo Nation Energy Policy of 2013 while Navajo Council Speaker Johnny Naize (right) looks on with Council Delegates Roscoe Smith (center back) and Mel R. Begay (left).

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed legislation enacting the Navajo Nation Energy Policy of 2013 during a signing ceremony this afternoon at his office.

President Shelly also signed legislation allocating about \$4.1 million to Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) and a third legislation that changed the operating policies of NTEC.

“This is a great day for the Navajo Nation,” President Shelly said after he signed the documents.

For three years, President Shelly has been advocating to update the Navajo Energy Policy, which was created in 1980. The Energy Advisory Committee that was chaired by Fred White, Natural Resources division director, created the updated Energy Policy and submitted the policy to the Navajo Council to initiate the legislative process.

“I am happy the Council passed the Energy Policy,” White said shortly after the legislation passed earlier this week.

Navajo Council Speaker Johnny Naize, who sponsored the bill, called the Energy Policy “a basic framework for which our Nation can work with other entities to effectively use our resources for energy development.”

The policy will allow for the Navajo Nation to have direction and guidance for energy development and other initiatives. In addition, President Shelly has stated the Energy Policy puts the Navajo Nation in a better position to advocate for funding from federal sources for energy studies, projects and other projects.

“I want to thank the Navajo Nation Council for the cooperation and the spirit of working together to pass the energy policy. It’s been a long journey. Much work from both branches of government went into today’s ceremony. Now we can move ahead with our future of renewable and non-renewable energy,” President Shelly said before he signed the legislation.

The legislation pertaining to NTEC allocated \$4.1 million to the company for costs relating to start up and expenses acquired during the due diligence investigation.

The other legislation amends the operating policies for NTEC.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771

navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

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Navajo President Shelly Signs Agreement with Gallup and McKinley County for Detox Center



President Ben Shelly (center) simultaneously signs the Memorandum of Agreement with McKinley County Commissioner Genevieve Jackson (left center) and Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney (right center). The agreement allows the Navajo Nation to operate the Gallup Detox and treatment aftercare center.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed an agreement Thursday morning making way for the Navajo Nation to operate the Gallup Detox center.

“Today, we come together as three governments to partner and provide a basic service for people who walk that lonely road of alcohol abuse and addiction,” President Shelly said before he signed the Memorandum of Agreement with the city of Gallup and McKinley county.

The MOA created a basic structure to fund the detox and aftercare treatment facility and gave the Navajo Nation the authority to operate the program. Plans call for the Navajo Nation Department of Behavioral Health to oversee the operation.

Gallup and the Navajo Nation also agreed to provide \$670,000 to improve the property to meet any codes and standards by Jan. 1. The Navajo Nation will provide \$350,000 of the funding while Gallup will provide \$320,000.

In addition, the MOA also stated that Gallup and McKinley County would use 10 percent of revenues from the alcohol excise tax to go toward funding the detox facility on an annual basis.

McKinley County Commissioner Genevieve Jackson signed the agreement on behalf of McKinley County and Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney signed on behalf of Gallup.

“We’re really grateful that the three agencies came together to address this matter because it is our responsibility,” Commissioner Jackson said.

Mayor McKinney expressed his gratitude for the agreement.

“This is a great venture and I am so happy and proud to be a part of this,” Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney said.

The agreement comes after the Na Nizhoozhi Center Inc. closed its operations in June. Since then the three governments have been formulating an agreement to keep the detox and treatment center open.

“We are going to work together to help people escape the grips of alcoholism and alcohol abuse, so people may make their lives better for themselves and their families,” President Shelly said. “Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to make this possible.”

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Navajo Nation Council approves NHA Reform Act of 2013

WINDOW ROCK – On Wednesday, the Navajo Nation Council approved the Navajo Housing Authority Reform Act of 2013, amending Title 6 of the Navajo Nation Code.

The initial legislation allowed the Navajo Nation President to appoint Commissioners to the NHA board with the Resources and Development Committee having the authority to confirm the selected candidates.

According to the legislation, if the President does not appoint a Commissioner within 60 days, then the oversight committee will select and confirm the candidate.

Legislation prime sponsor Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) said he hopes commissioners are selected and confirmed on a merit basis, adding that it is important that candidates possess qualifications and expertise in business practices and the housing industry.

“One of the main concerns regarding this legislation is whether or not RDC should have the authority to oversee the NHA board,” said Delegate Tsosie.

Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) motioned for an amendment to replace the oversight committee from RDC to the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee.

Delegate Simpson’s amendment included 11 changes within the language of the legislation to replace RDC as oversight with the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee.

The Council voted 18-0 to pass the amendment.

Upon approval of the amendment, the Council expressed their support in allowing the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee to oversee the NHA board.

“I am glad this amendment passed because now it allows all delegates to advocate on behalf of their chapters and we can all have equal input regarding the NHA board,” said Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau).

Delegate Yazzie added that this legislation could open the doors for the Naabik'iyáti' Committee to become the oversight committee for other boards to allow each delegate to advocate on behalf of their chapters.

Other components of the legislation address basic qualifications, removal of commissioners, exercise of powers, and terms of office. It also states that at least three of the Commissioners will each reside in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

Council voted 21-0 to pass Legislation No. 0006-13.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**Navajo Nation Council approves amendments to
legislation related to the acquisition of BHP Navajo Mine**

WINDOW ROCK –On the final day of the Council’s Fall Session, Council members voted 16-5 in favor of Legislation No. 0149-13, approving amendments to CAP-20-13.

CAP-20-13 is the original legislation passed by Council on Apr. 29, establishing the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC which is tasked with carrying out necessary business actions on behalf of the Nation in its endeavors to acquire BHP Navajo Mine.

“The legislation before you will amend the initial legislation which created NTEC and it also amends the Operating Agreement,” said legislation sponsor Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood).

Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) drew attention to language within “Exhibit G” of the legislation that grants certain waivers for BHP Billiton and releases the company from future claims and obligations concerning Navajo Mine.

Following Delegate Curley’s statements in which he urged his Council colleagues to vote down the legislation, Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) proposed an amendment to add language that would prevent BHP Billiton from obtaining waivers from possible claims in the future.

“The reason for the amendment is to hold BHP responsible for anything they have done,” said Delegate Begaye. “They should be responsible for those things, not the Navajo Nation.”

Speaking in support of the legislation, Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) said he felt the amendment was unnecessary based on the due diligence study conducted on the mine.

“I trust these people that are telling us everything and if they’re not telling us everything then that’s fraud. There’s still the federal remedy if they’ve done that,” said Delegate Tsosie.

Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) urged Council members to vote down the amendment.

“It was explained that in the slimmest event there’s a federal remedy to address anything that’s occurred in the past,” Delegate Bates said. “If we support [the amendment] then we might as well walk away from the deal.”

After nearly two hours of debate, Council members voted down the amendment with 4 supporting and 16 opposing.

Council then immediately voted 16-5 to approve Legislation No. 0149-13.

President Shelly will have 10 calendar days to consider the bill once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Council approves the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013

WINDOW ROCK – On the second day of the Council’s Fall Session, Council members approved Legislation No. 0276-13, the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013.

If signed into law, the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013 would rescind the 1980 Navajo Nation Energy Policy, established under former Chairman Peter MacDonald and update and amend language within the original energy act.

In a written report provided to Council on Monday, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) described the policy as, “a basic framework for which our Nation can work with other entities to effectively use our resources for energy development.”

Speaker Naize, who co-sponsored the legislation, also emphasized that the policy is subject to future amendments and should not be considered “set in stone.”

“It is our hope that the energy policy will remain a working document as we begin to further define the process for dealing with energy related projects and programs,” wrote Speaker Naize.

The bill was previously considered by Council during a special session held last Wednesday. However, as a result of Council losing quorum prior to the vote on the main motion, the item was placed on the Fall Session agenda.

During last week’s special session, Council Delegates Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) and Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) urged Council members to vote down the legislation to allow additional time to make the bill “stronger” by including more definitive language.

Council also approved three amendments during the special session, which included adding language to ensure that the Council can amend the energy policy in the future, and another amendment stating that the executive and the legislative branches shall be involved in the negotiation and approval of energy agreements.

Following a debate over floor rules and questions over whether the legislation should be the first item discussed at today’s session, Speaker Naize called for a vote on the main motion.

Council members approved Legislation No. 0276-13 with a vote of 13-6.

President Shelly will have 10 calendar days to consider the bill once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**Navajo Nation Council authorizes the NNTRC to
implement and manage the Nation's 9-1-1 emergency response system**

WINDOW ROCK – The 22nd Navajo Nation Council voted today to approve Legislation No. 0212-13, an enabling legislation that amends Title 2 and Title 21 of the Navajo Nation Code, and authorizes the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission to implement and manage a 9-1-1 emergency response system within the Navajo Nation.

“We need this legislation to lay the foundation to build a sustainable 9-1-1 system. We are losing lives without it,” said legislation sponsor Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii). “Emergency response is a major challenge for our isolated Navajo communities.”

The legislation was previously approved by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Law and Order Committee, and the Naabik'iyati' Committee.

During the discussion, Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) raised concern over whether the Nation would need to waive its sovereignty to obtain funding from the federal and state governments.

NNTRC acting executive director Brian Tagaban, said the legislation would not require the Nation to waive its sovereignty, but would require the Nation to comply with the guidelines of each funding source. He also added that the bill would allow the Nation to exercise its sovereignty by authorizing the NNTRC to design and plan the 9-1-1 system guidelines and regulations.

“Developing this system is a lengthy process, and unfortunately I don't see any other agency or department taking on this authority,” said Tagaban. “We will now be in the position where the Navajo Nation can make a 9-1-1 system a reality by designating jurisdiction, developing a service plan, and obtaining eligibility for funding.”

Council Delegate Mel Begay (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl'a'a') questioned if the NNTRC was capable of taking on the additional responsibility, as they are already tasked with regulating all of the Nation's telecommunication services.

In response, Tagaban explained that the NNTRC requested for additional personnel and listed this initiative as an administrative shortcoming in the NNTRC's 2014 Fiscal Year budget.

Additional personnel would allow for the NNTRC to complete rural addressing and additional requirements necessary for obtaining funding, according to Tagaban.

“This legislation is the first step to creating a safer Navajo Nation. The next step will be to address the need for more Navajo Nation police officers,” said Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau).

Prior to the Council’s vote, Delegate Phelps said he has encouraged President Ben Shelly to support future funding for the 9-1-1 system, and has received support from U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick of Arizona.

The Council approved Legislation No. 0212-13 with a vote of 19-0.

President Ben Shelly will have 10 calendar days to consider the legislation once the legislation is sent to the Office of the President and Vice-President.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Oct. 22, 2013

Navajo President Shelly Applauds the Passage of Navajo Nation Energy Policy

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly applauds the Navajo Nation Council for passing the Navajo Nation Energy Policy earlier today in the Council's Fall Session in Window Rock.

"I applaud the Navajo Nation Council for passing the Navajo Nation Energy Policy. This policy was created after many town hall meetings that were held throughout the Navajo Nation. We heard directly from the communities and the Shelly/Jim administration put forth the effort to update the Energy Policy of 1980. We have new energy platforms to consider as we look to the future of Navajo energy. We have the opportunity to purchase a coalmine and attain partial ownership of a power plant, but yet, we must keep a strong grasp on renewable energy sources as well. We have to be more diverse with our energy portfolio in the future and the Energy Policy will help guide us to that future," President Shelly said.

The Navajo Nation Council passed legislation 0276-13, the 2013 Navajo Energy Policy, with a vote of 13 in favor and 6 opposed. Once the legislation is received at the Office of the President and Vice President, President Shelly will have 10 calendar days to review the legislation.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Oct. 21, 2013

Navajo President Shelly Makes Case for Navajo Energy Policy During State of Nation Address

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, during an energy focused State of the Navajo Nation address to the Navajo Nation Council, said the Navajo Nation Energy Policy needs to be passed by the Council.

The Council also heard about the 911 program, data center opening, update regarding the former Bennett Freeze area, and the Veterans Trust Fund.



Speaking mostly in Navajo, President Shelly iterated that the Navajo Nation Energy Policy would bring forth future direction as the Navajo Nation expands its energy portfolio. The president based his speech on the written report he submitted to the Council, which was passed 13 in favor and one opposed.

“(The Energy Policy) is a comprehensive document in which we poured nearly three years of work into, in order to set the stage and the future for energy,” the President stated in a written report to the Council.

“With our abundance of resources, both natural and renewable, it makes perfect sense to have a policy to guide us in decades to come. Our partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy’s two national laboratories has given us direction,” President Shelly wrote.

The written report also stated that Navajo Nation's future with coal is in clean coal technology such as carbon sequestration and the use of carbon credits acquired through cleaner coal technology.

"We have been advised, with our new direction in clean coal, we will shore carbon credits, which hold a value. We will sell them to other power producing companies in North America as they do their part in coming into compliance," President Shelly wrote.

President Shelly also talked about renewable energy.

"Renewable energy is also our destiny. In September, we opened a 45,000 square foot facility in Fort Defiance, the very first solar (panel) manufacturing and assembly plant in Indian country," President Shelly stated.

Nabeeho Power is recruiting workers and plans to have as many as 400 workers in Fort Defiance, Ariz. when fully operational. In addition, President Shelly, said Paragon Ranch in New Mexico is undergoing a feasibility study for a solar energy project.

The report also updated the Council about the Navajo Nation's 911 program.

"Our Telecommunication Regulatory Commission will create a way to bring a next generation 911, responsive to emergencies where 911 calls are handled here, and not from far away locations," President Shelly wrote. He added that the Health, Education and Human Services Committee and the Law and Order Committee have worked with the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission to make the legal changes to make way for the Navajo Nation to regulate the 911 program.

President Shelly also updated the Council about the first tier three data center that opened in August in Shiprock. He said that the Navajo Nation has the opportunity to be a prime location for future data centers because of the climate and stable environment.

Another point President Shelly made was about his line item veto of \$3 million legislation for Bennett Freeze development. He said that a proper plans need to be in place so most of the money would directly benefit the residents.

"I have asked for the legislation to be done correctly. We will ensure that the land status be solely under Navajo Nation jurisdiction, and that a comprehensive plan for the prudent use of the \$3 million be made before I reconsider," President Shelly wrote.

The president added that the Veteran's Trust amendments made last month will help Navajo veterans gain access to new homes and repairs to existing homes.

"Funds will be equally distributed to the five agencies to build 15 homes per agency using the existing waiting list," President Shelly wrote.

The Navajo Nation Council is expected to discuss the Energy Policy legislation on Tuesday.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**Speaker Naize delivers report to the
Navajo Nation Council on the first day of the Fall Session**

WINDOW ROCK—Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) provided a written report to the Council highlighting progress on core issues and initiatives on the first day of the Navajo Nation Council’s Fall Session.

Speaker Naize began by commending the Council for passing the Nation’s FY2014 Comprehensive Budget and shared his disappointment with President Ben Shelly’s line-item veto of certain allocations, including \$3 million for projects in the Former Bennett Freeze area, approved by Council during its annual budget hearings held in September.

“This funding had the potential to benefit many of our Diné citizens living in this particular area,” said Speaker Naize in the written report. “The veto power granted to President Shelly by the people is very general in its definition and questions still remain as to how the veto power can and should be used.”

Concerning the Nation’s energy issues, Speaker Naize advocated for the possible purchase of the BHP Navajo Mine through the Nation’s wholly owned subsidiary, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC.

“We have invested a tremendous amount of human and financial resources to bear on the solution to this dilemma, and I believe we are nearing a successful end to this epic challenge,” stated Speaker Naize in his report.

Speaker Naize continued on to state that NTEC will not only provide immediate economic stability, but it will also allow the Nation to transition to renewable energy resources by devoting 10 percent of its annual net income to developing new technology for clean energy development.

“NTEC represents a pragmatic path of transition to an era of cleaner and renewable energy by expanding the Navajo economy, rather than disrupting the economy by abandoning its coal assets,” Speaker Naize stated in his report to Council.

The report also touched upon the proposed Navajo Energy Policy of 2013, which is an item currently on the Council’s Fall Session agenda.

“The policy outlines a basic framework for which our Nation can work with other entities to effectively use our resources for energy development,” stated Speaker Naize. “I understand that

delegates have questions and concerns and I encourage each of you to voice your recommendations and amendments as we discuss the legislation.”

The proposed policy was discussed during a special session held last Wednesday, however, Council lost quorum prior to the vote on the main motion.

Other topics included in Speaker Naize’s report include the Fort Wingate Military Depot negotiations with the Zuni Tribe, the Nation’s proposed Gaming Compact with the State of New Mexico, the Cobell Land Buy-Back Program, and the ongoing “regionalization” initiative.

At the conclusion of the report, Speaker Naize outlines key issues that his administration plans to focus on in the next quarter including, the Navajo Area Agency on Aging, Navajo Housing Authority, the Former Bennett Freeze area, water rights, and sacred sites.

The Navajo Nation Council voted 13-1 to accept the report.

To view Speaker Naize’s full report, please visit:

http://www.navajonationcouncil.org/pressReleases/2013/OCT/Speakers_Report_Fall_2013_Session.pdf.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Oct. 18, 2013

Navajo President Vice President Jim Invites Everyone to Participate in 3rd Annual Health Run



Vice President Rex Lee Jim (left center) walks in the 2nd Annual Running for a Stronger and Healthier Navajo Nation with Council Delegate George Apachito (left). In all nearly 400 miles were walked or ran during last years event.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim invites everyone to participate in the 3rd Annual Running for a Stronger and Healthier Navajo Nation that is slated to begin on Sunday, Oct. 20 in LeChee, Ariz.

“The goal is to improve the quality of health for our people, and hopefully reduce health care costs associated with obesity, diabetes, cancer, substance abuse, and mental health issues,” Vice President Jim said.

Beginning Sunday, in coordination with the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Project, people will trek across the Navajo Nation and are expecting to travel nearly 400 miles. The event is scheduled to close on Saturday, Oct. 26, in Ojo Encino, N.M.

Along the route, 20 communities have been identified to host a health fair that is open to the public. The fairs will include free health screenings and wellness education booths from local and surrounding health programs.

“I would like to see all health programs participate this year by taking responsibility for a certain section of the run between chapters by recruiting runners and walkers; and by working with chapters for health fairs and informing the local people about living healthy lives,” Vice President Jim said.

President Ben Shelly appointed Vice President Jim to lead the Shelly/Jim Administration with health and education initiatives on the Navajo Nation.

“Vice President Jim is a well known leader in education and health issues. He is making our nation stronger with new educational goals. He leads our health initiatives by example. I am asking everyone to participate this year in the Running for a Stronger and Healthier Navajo Nation,” President Shelly said.

Vice President Jim added that running builds strength of character.

“We are a strong people and have endured through many trials, but in looking at the future, we want our people to be stronger and healthier. We have many strong runners on the Navajo Nation, but we want people of all ages participating in this run to improve their health.”

The following is a schedule of communities that will be on the run route:

October 20, 2013:

LeChee Chapter, Coppermine Chapter, Kaibeto Chapter, and Inscription House.

October 21, 2013:

Inscription House Chapter, Shonto Chapter, Black Mesa Market and Forest Lake Chapter.

October 22, 2013:

Forest Lake, Black Mesa Chapter, Rough Rock Chapter, Many Farms Chapter and Round Rock Chapter.

October 23, 2013:

Round Rock Chapter, Lukachukai Chapter, Red Valley Chapter and Sanostee Chapter.

October 24, 2013:

Sanostee Chapter, Two Grey Hills Chapter, Newcomb Chapter, and Burnham Chapter.

October 25, 2013:

Burnham Chapter, Huerfano Chapter, and Nageezi Chapter.

October 26, 2013:

Nageezi Chapter, Counselor Chapter, and Ojo Encino Chapter.

For more information please visit <http://nnsdp.org/RSHNN.aspx>.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**Health, Education, and Human Services Committee discusses
taxing junk foods and eliminating tax on fresh fruits and vegetables**

WINDOW ROCK – The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, discussed Legislation No. 0289-13 and Legislation No. 0290-13, a conjoined effort to implement a two-percent tax on certain “junk” foods and beverages and to eliminate the sales tax on fresh fruits and vegetables on the Navajo Nation.

During the 2013 Summer Session, Council voted down a similar legislation, which aimed to enact the Navajo Nation Junk Food Sales Tax Act of 2013.

In lieu of the legislation’s failure, Council offered recommendations to the sponsor Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) and agents to improve the bills language and enforcement.

On Sept. 23, Delegate Simpson introduced Legislation No. 0289-13 which aims to impose a two-percent tax on the sale of junk food such as: chips, candy, cookies, and pastries, with the proceeds going toward funding community wellness projects.

“This legislation basically implements a tax on unhealthy foods that will eventually lead to healthy food purchases on the Nation,” said co-sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels).

Although HEHSC members expressed support for the legislation’s intent to improve the quality of health by decreasing diabetes and obesity, several members were skeptical over specific definitions and language included in the legislation.

“This legislation essentially says we know you can’t make good decisions, so we want to tax you to help you make good choices,” said HEHSC member Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill). “I am concerned with the enforcement and what provisions you have made with the help of the [Navajo Nation] Tax Commission.”

HEHSC member Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi) also asked if the Tax Commission was involved in writing the legislation and insisted that Navajo People should decide whether to implement the tax.

“The Navajo People need to be involved in this initiative. Have you explored a referendum vote?” said Delegate Butler. “The people need to have an input on this. If this is really what they want and if it is coming from the people, they will vote on it.”

EHSC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) agreed with his colleagues and requested for the Tax Commission to provide their insight about the impacts of the legislation.

EHSC vice chair Council Delegate Charles Damon II (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) requested for the sponsor and agents to consult with the Navajo Tax Commission, Office of Management and Budget, Office of the Controller, Elections Administration, and Navajo Division of Health.

EHSC voted 4-0 to delete Legislation No. 0289-13 from the agenda.

Following the vote, the EHSC considered Legislation No. 0290-13 which aims to amend Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code by approving the elimination of the sales tax on fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, water, nuts, seeds and nut butters.

The EHSC voted to delete the item from the agenda with a vote of 3-0, to allow for the sponsor to work with the various Navajo Nation entities to improve the language of both legislations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Navajo Nation Council approves \$4.1 million to fund costs associated with the acquisition of BHP Navajo Mine

WINDOW ROCK –During a special session held on Wednesday, Council members voted 17-2 in favor of Legislation No. 0305-13, approving \$4.1 million from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to fund initial and immediate costs and obligations associated with the completion of ongoing negotiations and to close on the transactions for the acquisition of Navajo Mine from BHP Billiton.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) provided assurances that the mine acquisition would be a successful venture, including the proven track record of BHP Billiton and the Four Corners Power Plant to generate and burn coal for electricity, the “dedicated” and “skilled” workforce already in place at both sites, the Nation’s nearly one-hundred years of coal supply, and that technology will continue to advance to provide cleaner methods of coal energy production.

“Technology will show that in some point in time, coal will become a much more valuable resource. There is a future for coal,” said Delegate Bates.

Voicing opposition to bill, Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) expressed disappointment in President Ben Shelly’s veto of \$3 million from the Nation’s UUFB, for projects in the Former Bennett Freeze Area which was approved by Council during the budget session held in September.

“The president vetoed money for Bennett-Freeze because he wanted money for this,” said Delegate Curley. “What I see is that we sacrificed housing interests for the Bennett Freeze.”

Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) said he supports “green” energy development, while noting that the Nation would lost \$70-\$80 million annually, including one-third of revenues for each of the Nation’s 110 chapters if the Navajo Mine and FCPP closed.

“I’m pro-green but there has to be a transition,” said Delegate Simpson. “It’s not going to happen overnight and it’s not going to happen two years from now.”

Also speaking in favor of the legislation, Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinon, Whippoorwill) described the proposed mine acquisition as a way of maximizing the Nation’s revenue based on its resources, while providing the opportunity to transition to renewable energy.

“I don’t like coal in terms of its health impacts,” said Delegate Witherspoon. “The creation of NTEC has within its parameters that they have to use their profits to transition, specifically at least 10-percent of their profit revenue, to renewable energy development. It costs money to make that kind of transition, as well. “

At the conclusion of the two hour discussion, Council members voted 17-2 to approve Legislation No. 0305-13.

The bill now goes to President Ben Shelly for review and consideration.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Oct. 17, 2013

Navajo President Shelly States Navajo Nation Needs to Recognize Navajo Act for Disabled

FARMINGTON, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, during a meeting on Tuesday, stated the need to recognize the Vocational Rehabilitation and Opportunities for the Handicap Act of 1984 on the Navajo Nation. The law was passed six years before the Americans with Disabilities Act and created similar standards as the ADA for the Navajo Nation.

President Shelly made his statement at a meeting held by the Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disability on Tuesday at the Farmington Civic Center.

“This law further recognizes that our disabled Navajo community is a valued part of our society,” President Shelly said about the Vocational Rehabilitation and Opportunities for the Handicap Act. “All public and private entities within the Navajo Nation need to work with the Navajo Nation Council on the Handicapped in implementing the Vocational Rehabilitation and Opportunities for the Handicap Act.”

The law was passed in 1984 and requires that both public and private entities provide reasonable accommodations for the special needs of persons with a disability, including the need to site accessibility in regards to employment, housing, public accommodations, social services, transportation, recreation, educational and training opportunities, and ensure the availability of these services on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis.

“All Navajo People are entitled to make the life they want for themselves. Each of us has the basic right to an economic, social, cultural and political life in the Navajo Nation without regard to any handicapping condition,” President Shelly said.

The president also expressed his support for the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“I support the ADA and we need to recognize and implement that law on the Navajo Nation,” he said.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Oct. 16, 2013

Navajo President Shelly Breaks Ground for New Apartment Complex



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Navajo First Lady Martha Shelly (left center) participated in a ground-breaking ceremony on Wednesday for a new apartment complex that is expected to have 10 two bedroom apartments for employees of the Chinle Nursing home.

CHINLE, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly helped break ground for a new apartment complex during a ceremony in Chinle Wednesday morning.

“We need to take care of our elderly. They are important and we need to keep them happy,” President Shelly said, “With this building we have to make the foundation strong, like that of our elders. They have a strong foundation and this building must be like that.”

When complete, the complex will have 10 two-bedroom apartments available for employees of the Chinle Nursing Home. Nearly 40 people attended the groundbreaking.

“We need to take care of our elders because they hold the knowledge of our culture and language. We have to make sure we keep them on the Navajo Nation so I support the efforts of the Chinle Nursing Home,” President Shelly said during his speech, which was mostly in Navajo.

Weller Architects of Albuquerque, N.M. designed the apartment complex.

“It takes a lot of effort, a lot of work to do this,” Chinle Chapter President Andy Ayze said, “You have good leadership.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Navajo Nation Council Special Session and Fall Session to be streamed live on the web

WINDOW ROCK – The Navajo Nation Council’s special session on Oct. 16 and the fall session which begins on Oct. 21, will each be streamed live on the web through the Council’s designated USTREAM channel.

“Once again, I am honored to invite Diné people from all corners of the world to tune into Council’s USTREAM channel to view Council’s proceedings during the Council’s special session and throughout the duration of the fall session,” said Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood).

The live broadcast of the fall session marks the sixth time a regular Council session has been streamed live since the first broadcast during the 2012 Fall Session.

This is a great opportunity to engage our veterans overseas, students living off the reservation, and many others and to provide them the opportunity to become informed on issues affecting our Nation, said Speaker Naize.

The purpose of this endeavor is to expand and diversify the ways in which Diné citizens participate in their government – an objective for which many Council Delegates have advocated.

The Office of the Speaker continues its partnership with the Navajo Nation Office of Broadcast Services to provide this regular service to the Diné people.

Visit <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/navajo-nation-council> to view the live-streamed proceedings of the Council’s special session and fall session. Alternatively, viewers may log onto the USTREAM home page and search for ‘Navajo Nation Council’ in the search box.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Law and Order Committee approves legislation urging BIA and IHS to fund routine infectious disease screenings in Navajo Nation jails

WINDOW ROCK – The Law and Order Committee on Monday, approved legislation urging the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service to provide funding for routine infectious disease screening and control program in all Navajo Nation jails.

Legislation No. 0310-13 seeks to ensure that the Navajo Nation adheres to the required federal guidelines to operate tribal jail facilities.

The Indian Self-Determination Contract P.L. 93-638 with the U.S. Department of the Interior implemented the Bureau of Indian Affairs Adult Detention Facility Guidelines, which aims to provide a safe environment within the correctional facilities for the community, staff, volunteers, and inmates.

“Infectious diseases is not a problem unique to just the Navajo Nation, but is widespread and affects corrections staff that are in contact with the inmates on a daily basis,” said legislation prime sponsor Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To’ii).

According to the report, the Navajo Nation currently does not have official protocol procedures to administer medical screenings for infectious diseases to inmates, upon intake into the correctional facilities. The three prevalent high-risk infectious diseases that are found in most jail facilities are tuberculosis (TB), Hepatitis C, and HIV/AIDS.

Navajo Nation Department of Corrections administrative service officer Stephanie Baldwin, stated that tribal jails currently use a self-reporting health questionnaire that is given to inmates to identify health problems to the corrections staff.

“NNDCC does not have certified medical personnel to administer official infectious disease screenings, but we ensure that our staff have annual physical exams and obtain up-to-date shots to avoid contracting any diseases,” said Baldwin.

Delegate Phelps said a TB outbreak occurred in the Tuba City Detention Center between March and April of this year.

“We are here today because of an incident at the Tuba City [detention] facility where 44 inmates and staff were affected by a TB outbreak due to an undiagnosed inmate that came into contact with these individuals,” said Delegate Phelps.

LOC vice chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichii, Steamboat) requested for additional data and statistics regarding infectious diseases to illustrate the significant need for funding from the BIA and IHS.

LOC voted 2-0 to approve Legislation No. 0310-13. The legislation now goes to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee for consideration.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Naabik'iyáti' Committee approves \$4.1 million for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC and the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013

WINDOW ROCK –Naabik'iyáti' Committee members last Thursday approved Legislation No. 0305-13, approving \$4.1 million from the Navajo Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to fund initial and immediate costs and obligations associated with the acquisition of Navajo Mine from BHP Billiton, and Legislation No. 0276-13, the proposed Navajo Energy Policy of 2013.

Prior to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee meeting, the Budget and Finance Committee held a special meeting in which members voted 4-0 in favor of Legislation No. 0305-13, which was then added to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee's agenda along with Legislation No. 0276-13 at the start of the meeting.

Following an approximately four hour discussion over a report provided to Naabik'iyáti' Committee members from representatives of the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC during an executive session, committee members immediately approved Legislation No. 0305-13 with a 13-1 vote.

Committee members then discussed the proposed Navajo Energy Act of 2013, which seeks to rescind the 1980 Navajo Nation Energy Policy established under former Chairman Peter MacDonald, and to update and amend language within the energy act.

The bill drew opposition from several delegates including Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreón, Whitehorse Lake) who argued that the legislation is in need of more definitive wording.

"This is one of those [legislations with] feel-good language and it really doesn't have teeth," said Delegate Tsosie.

Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) also expressed skepticism over the proposed energy policy and questioned why it took 33 years for the Council to update the original policy.

"The world is advancing very fast and I think there will be gaps in this policy if we do this right away," said Delegate Pete. "Are we going to wait another 33 years to update this policy again?"

During the course of the two hour discussion, committee members approved two amendments including removing a section of the legislation that expresses disappointment with current federal policies regarding the use of coal, and another amendment to remove language stating that the Navajo would adapt to the future federal regulatory environment.

Naabik'iyátí' Committee members voted 8-4 to approve Legislation No. 0276-13.

A special session has been scheduled for Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. to consider both legislations.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org



P.O. Box 129
ST. MICHAELS, AZ 86511
PHONE: (928) 871-7436
FAX: (928) 871-7437

PRESS RELEASE

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission
October 14, 2013

**The Status of Navajo Women, Gender Violence, & the Rights of
Indigenous Peoples**

The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (NNHRC) and the University of New Mexico's American Studies Department will host two conversations with Diné medicine people on the status of Navajo women and gender violence on October 31st and November 1st, 2013. Both will be held at the Fort Defiance Chapter House, 8:30-5:00 PM. The discussions will also explore how the well-being of women and Navajo LGBTQ can be addressed within the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

These sessions with Diné medicine people will outline traditional Navajo gender roles and explore the current status of Diné women and the extent to which their roles have shifted. Also, recognition and discussion of Navajo LGBTQ and their roles in Navajo culture and society as well as violence against LGBTQ communities will be explored. In an effort to understand how the Navajo Nation has shifted in its treatment of gender, this working session will also explore how the imposition of a modern Western-style government has contributed to gender violence in the form of gender inequalities in the work place and within the Navajo government. For more information, contact the NNHRC at (928) 871-7436.

The Status of Navajo Women & Gender Violence Is a Human Rights Issue

Conversations with Diné Medicine People

Medicine people:

Marle Salt, Kayenta, AZ

Philmer Bluehouse, Fort Defiance, AZ

Rita Gilmore, Chinle, AZ

Henry Barber, Bread Springs, AZ

When: October 31 & November 1, 2013

Where: Fort Defiance Chapter House, Ft. Defiance, Arizona

Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm daily



The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission & the University of New Mexico's American Studies Dept. Invites you to participate in dialogues with Diné medicine people on traditional gender roles and the epidemic violence against Navajo women that we are currently seeing on the Navajo Nation, in our communities, and the surrounding bordertowns. We begin by articulating Navajo traditional gender roles and then consider how modern governance has transformed these roles. We include Navajo LGBTQ in our forum. We ask, how is the status of Navajo women and gender violence a human rights issue?

Discussion, Dialogue, & Small Groups:

- Human Rights
- Navajo Women & Government
- Traditional Leadership
- Traditional Stories
- LGBTQ
- Civil Rights
- Gender Discrimination
- Nation & Government



Sponsored by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and the University of New Mexico American Studies Department





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 9, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nmlb.communications@gmail.com

Resources and Development Committee approves \$4.1 million for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC and the Navajo Energy Policy

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee considered and approved two significant legislations related to energy issues on the Navajo Nation: Legislation No. 0305-13 and Legislation No. 0276-13.

Legislation No. 0305-13 is sponsored by Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) and seeks approval for a \$4.1 million from the Undesignated Unreserved Fund Balance for Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC., to cover expenses associated with the acquisition of BHP Navajo Mine.

“I believe that with a united front between Speaker Naize and President Shelly, the acquisition of this mine will take place,” said Delegate Bates.

According to the legislation, in order to close on the transactions for the acquisition of the Navajo Mine from BHP Billiton, NTEC requires an initiative capital infusion from the Nation in the amount of \$4.1 million.

During an Oct. 4 press conference at Upper Fruitland chapter house, President Shelly stated that he would only sign Legislation No. 0305-13 if the Council approved the Navajo Energy Policy.

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) expressed disappointment with President Shelly's statements at the Oct. 4 press conference and recommended that a work session be held to address concerns of purchasing the mine.

In response, Delegate Bates recommended that the President's Office work with the Legislative Branch to ensure both are on the same page regarding the Navajo Energy Policy.

“The Nation has resources, in this case it is coal. In the past, the Nation brought in an outside entity to develop that resource and we have benefited from the economic stimulus,” said RDC member Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill). “I understand how important this is, but we need to make use of an investment that's already there.”

The RDC approved Legislation No. 0305-13 with a vote of 5-0.

The legislation now moves on to the Budget and Finance Committee, Naabík'íyáti' Committee, and Navajo Nation Council for consideration.

Following the vote, the RDC considered Legislation No. 0276-13, which would rescind the 1980 Navajo Nation Energy Policy and approve the Navajo Nation Energy Policy of 2013.

“The energy policy took a lot of time and effort by the committee, chair, and task force. When you look at the policy you will see your [RDC] input,” said legislation sponsor Delegate Smith.

Navajo Division of Natural Resources executive director Fred White, said the policy directs the Nation to be an energy distribution system that benefits not only the Navajo, but also its neighbors.

“The energy policy draft was taken to the public, then we came back to the committee and redeveloped after several work sessions,” said White. “We address how to handle renewables and coal fire power plants. The policy states that these are areas we need to go into.”

RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) commended the RDC for their work to craft the policy to the needs of the Navajo people, by ensuring the right wording and ideas of the People were included throughout the process.

The RDC approved Legislation No. 0276-13 with a vote of 4-0.

The legislation now moves on to the Naabík'íyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council for consideration.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 9, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS
Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Law and Order Committee receives report regarding the possible reversion of federal funds from the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Project

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee received a report from the Navajo Nation Office of the Controller regarding the possible reversion of federal funds for the Navajo Nation Special Diabetes Project.

According to the report, NNOOC identified approximately \$14.3 million in potential federal carryovers for NNSDP dating back to FY2003. However, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services authorized carryovers in the amount of \$3.5 million, at the request of NNSDP.

“NNOOC is not quite sure why NNSDP did not request to carry forward the full amount of \$14.3 million,” said NNOOC project manager Laura Johnson. “They are also having difficulty fully expending their annual awarded funds.”

Johnson also said that NNSDP was previously given the opportunity to claim the additional \$10.8 million difference of the total federal carryover.

LOC members expressed disappointment and questioned the large amount of unspent funds by NNSDP.

“The need for a special diabetes program is there, the money is there, so why aren’t these monies being used?” asked LOC member Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone).

In response, Johnson stated that there may be confusion at the management level of the program over guidelines for spending the awarded amounts, and ultimately funds are not being spent, possibly as a result of precautionary measures.

“It is shameful that we have a diabetes epidemic in our Nation, and we have the money, but we are not even utilizing these funds to fully address these issues,” said LOC member Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock).

After further reviewing the past carry over amounts, LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) recommended having a joint work session with NNSDP, NNOOC, Navajo Nation Office of Management and Budget, Navajo

Nation Division of Health, Indian Health Service, and the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

“The unspent funds are money the Navajo Nation is in much need of, and it should not be reverted back to the U.S. Dept. of HHS,” said Delegate Yazzie. “We need to assist NNSDP to develop a spending plan to ensure that all the federal funding is expended to avoid reversion of these funds.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, LOC voted 2-0 to accept the report.

The joint meeting is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 28.

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October 9, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee approves two legislations to enhance Social Services funding and foster home regulations

WINDOW ROCK – Following an orientation of the Navajo Nation Title IV-E Eligibility Handbook and Guidelines and amendments to Regulations for Family Foster Home Standards, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee approved Legislation No. 0271-13 and Legislation No. 0280-13.

Legislation No. 0271-13, approves the Navajo Division of Social Services Title IV-E Eligibility Handbook and Guidelines, while Legislation No. 0280-13 amends the Navajo Nation Regulations for Family Foster Home Standards.

On Sep. 25, HEHSC members requested additional time to review the two legislations to gain a better understanding, as well as to participate in a full orientation of the legislative documents.

Representatives from the Navajo Division of Social Services and Navajo Department of Justice conducted the orientation, explaining that each legislation is a critical segment of an overall master plan for the Division of Social Services that has been developed over a four-year period.

“With this legislation we can move forward to create a master plan that will help improve and streamline services provided to our families,” said HEHSC member and legislation sponsor Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi). “With this approval, we will reduce out-of-home care, reunite children, require permanency planning and receive direct funding.”

Division of Social Services executive director Sharon Begay-McCabe, said the approval of the “IV-E” legislations would allow the Nation to receive and administer reimbursement payments directly, without going through the three neighboring states.

“The Nation does not receive reimbursements from Arizona or Utah, only New Mexico,” said Department of Justice acting assistant attorney general Kandis Martine. “The handbooks are part of a package that would allow for Navajo to receive the reimbursement of maintenance and administration costs.”

Currently, the Division of Social Services expends its own funds to cover many case costs such as: food, shelter, clothing, necessary personnel training, case management, and travel for children to case reviews.

HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) asked if other tribes were participating in Title IV-E and requested a timeline detailing when the policies would be implemented.

“Navajo is the leader with Title IV-E, because we are taking on every segment of the program. Only two other tribes have been approved, but they are only taking on certain segments of Title IV-E,” said Martine. “The legislation will need to be reviewed by President Shelly and DOJ once more, after that it will be sent to the federal government for approval.”

“Who gives the final certification for licensing foster homes? Is that given by the BIA or did the tribe develop its own certification guidelines?” questioned HEHSC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii). “Will families that live in the rural parts of the Nation, in hogans, be able to pass the guidelines for licensure?”

In response, Martine explained that licensures and regulations are a mandatory part of the Title IV-E process and have been included in Legislation No. 0280-13. Martine added that the handbooks are inclusive to Navajo culture and values, where as a Hogan would be considered safe for a child and acceptable by the foster home standards.

“The approval of these legislations will help between 200-250 Navajo children,” said Begay-McCabe. “The focus of this initiative is to focus on our Navajo Children and Families.”

The HEHSC approved Legislation No. 0271-13 with a vote of 3-0, followed by the approval of Legislation No 0280-13 with a vote of 3-0.

HEHSC serves as the final authority for both legislations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
nrlb.communications@gmail.com

Council Delegate Jonathan Nez discusses decentralization initiative

MONUMENT VALLEY, Utah – Last Wednesday, Budget and Finance Committee vice chair Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) discussed the Navajo Nation’s regionalization/decentralization initiative to clarify its intent to constituents at the Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Shonto, Ts’ah Bii Kin Regional Council meeting.

The NOST Regional Council was formally established and recognized by the Resources and Development Committee in Oct. 2011, through the passage of resolution RDCO-38-11.

In August, the BFC allocated \$3 million to fund the regionalization/decentralization project, which was later approved by the Navajo Nation Council during the FY2014 budget hearings.

“The [Navajo Nation] regionalization project now has \$3 million available, but we need to implement a successful plan of action to begin creating regional agencies throughout the Nation to create councils, such as this one,” said Delegate Nez.

According to Delegate Nez’s report, current decentralization efforts focus on providing services to chapters at an agency level to avoid the lengthy bureaucratic process of the central government.

Delegate Nez said that decentralization is a systematic delegation of authority to the middle and lower level management. However, framing policies and major decisions related to the Nation as a whole, will remain the responsibility of the central government.

“We are transitioning from the Local Governance Support Centers to regional agencies that will add a planner, attorney, and accountant, and they will assist the chapters with more technical and complicated issues that can be handled at the local level,” said Delegate Nez.

The regionalization/decentralization initiative would not remove chapter officials, because it is still important that each Navajo community is represented at the local level, stated Delegate Nez.

Delegate Nez also discussed phasing out LGSC, explaining that staff will not be laid off. Instead, their positions will transition to the new regional agency offices to continue working at the middle government level and to provide direct services such as chapter budgets, accounting, regional planning, etc. to chapters.

“The keyword we need to keep in mind through the regionalization process is ‘transition,’” said Delegate Nez. “I want to clarify to the chapters and community that their officials and staff will still be available, but services will soon be provided closer to your areas without having to wait for action at the central government level.”

Navajo Nation Division of Community Development senior project/program specialist Peggy Sue Nez, stated that her office is currently working on proposals to finalize the number of regional agencies, staffing, and services that will be offered to the chapters.

She said that a summit for leaders at the local level would take place to further clarify the regionalization/decentralization efforts.

Delegate Nez commended the NOST Regional Council for being one of the first functioning regional organizations currently established.

“A lot of the regionalization discussion originated here at these four chapters, and you should be proud that you are a model to other agencies who will soon follow suit,” said Delegate Nez.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 8, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**Law and Order Committee approves bill to
eliminate sales tax on fresh food items on the Navajo
Nation and tables bill to impose sales tax on junk food**

SHIPROCK, N.M. – Last Friday, the Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0290-13, seeking to eliminate sales tax on fresh food items such as fruits, vegetables, water, nuts, seeds, and nut butters.

“We are in pursuit of a healthy Navajo Nation and to improve the health of our Diné people,” said health advocate Denisa Livingston with the Diné Community Advocacy Alliance.

According to the report, the elimination of sales tax on fresh foods would encourage Diné citizens to purchase healthier food items and alleviate grocery costs.

“We have an epidemic of diabetes on the Navajo Nation,” stated prime legislation sponsor Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock). “Eliminating the sales tax on fresh foods shows that we are working toward a healthier Navajo community.”

Delegate Simpson stated that the legislation is being introduced in conjunction with Legislation No. 0289-13, which seeks to amend Title 24 of the Navajo Nation Code by enacting the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013.

The Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2013 aims to impose an additional two percent sales tax on various junk food items, with proceeds going towards funding Community Wellness Projects. The current sales tax rate is five percent.

LOC members voted 2-0 to table Legislation No. 0289-13 to obtain further clarification of the bill.

“Both legislations will work together to discourage the purchase of junk food items,” said Delegate Simpson.

LOC members commended the efforts of DCAA and Delegate Simpson, and made recommendations pertaining to the legislation.

“When this legislation goes to the Naabik’iyát’ Committee, I will make the recommendation to insert that a signed tax-exempt notice be posted on the fresh food items, so it is clear to consumers which foods are sales tax-free,” said LOC member Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock).

LOC member Council Delegate Duane Tsinigine (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K’ai’bii’tó, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake) expressed his concern regarding the lack of representation from the Office of the Navajo Nation Tax Commission, and stated that they need to be a part of the discussion regarding the sales tax exemptions.

At the conclusion of the discussion, LOC members praised the legislation’s intent to decrease diabetes on the Navajo Nation and promote healthy living among Diné people.

LOC voted 2-0 to pass Legislation No. 0290-13. The legislation now goes to the Resources and Development Committee for consideration.

Legislation No. 0085-13, a similar bill that was previously introduced by Delegate Simpson during the Council’s Summer Session, sought to impose a junk food sales tax and eliminate tax on fresh foods. However, it was voted down by the Council due to confusion over language in the legislation. Council members recommended that the bill be presented as two separate legislations to address both issues respectively.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org



Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Oct. 8, 2013

Navajo President Shelly and Former New Mexico Gov. Richardson Form Agreement about Navajo Horses

FARMINGTON, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly met with former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson to continue discussions on feral horse solutions as part of President Shelly's initiative to address what many chapters have deemed a critical land management issue. President Shelly has remained committed to meeting chapter needs while seeking humane solutions to dealing with feral horses. Both the President and the Governor have reached an agreement in principle in which the Navajo Nation would suspend horse round ups making way to halting the sale of Navajo horses to horse processing plants.

The two leaders reached the agreement in a meeting over the weekend.

“Over the last several months since chapters have requested assistance with curbing uncared for horse populations I have been meeting with federal officials and animal advocacy groups to approach this matter in a sustainable and humane way. I have met with Gov. Richardson and we have come to an agreement to find long term solutions to manage our feral horse issue on the Navajo Nation. We will suspend horse round ups and forfeit support for horse slaughtering and horse slaughtering facilities. We have maintained an all of the above approach to managing our horse population and our land. I am thankful for the input we have received from various groups from within the Navajo Nation and throughout the United States. We are now using that input in formulating innovative initiatives to address this issue. I have always advocated for strong long-term solutions and partnerships. I believe the MOU will serve as a gateway for more resources to assist our local communities,” President Shelly said.

Gov. Richardson represents the Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife, which he founded with actor, director and conservationist Robert Redford. The foundation is working to stop the slaughter of horses, including actively fighting efforts to reopen horse slaughterhouses in the United States. The foundation is committed to finding humane alternatives to horse slaughter to deal with the nation's wild horse population and is working with advocacy groups such as Return to Freedom headed by world-renowned horse advocate Neda DeMayo.

“I commend President Shelly for calling for an immediate end to horse roundups and for making it clear that moving forward the Navajo Nation will not support horse slaughter or the return of horse slaughter facilities,” Governor Richardson said. “This is exactly the outcome horse advocates, such as myself, had hoped for.”

The two leaders agreed to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that would suspend horse round ups on the Navajo Nation while the Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife and other horse advocacy groups, including Animal Protection of New Mexico, work with the Navajo Nation to develop and implement alternative policies to manage feral horse populations. Possible solutions that will be explored include equine birth control, adoption, land management and public education.

“Our land is precious to the Navajo people as are all the horses on the Navajo Nation. Horses are sacred animals to us. Both the land and the animals must be responsibly managed. For too long this issue has gone unaddressed putting us in the situation we are today where chapters are facing real problems with uncared for animals damaging local land and domestic livestock. I am thankful we can partner with agencies that have resources to help us find real long-term solutions,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly added that the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources and the Navajo Department of Agriculture will cooperate with Gov. Richardson and the Foundation to Protect New Mexico Wildlife. .

“I look forward to getting to work partnering with President Shelly and the Navajo Nation to help find and develop policies that are not only humane, but offer long-term solutions to managing the Navajo Nation’s horse population,” Governor Richardson added. “I hope that federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Agriculture, as well as horse advocacy groups will also support our efforts with funding.

The MOU is expected to be signed within two weeks.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
Oct. 4, 2013

Navajo President Shelly States Support for NTEC and Navajo Nation Energy Policy

UPPER FRUITLAND, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly stated his support for Navajo Energy Transitional Company and advocated for the passage of the Navajo Nation Energy Policy.

“We have an outdated energy policy that needs to be updated,” President Shelly said during a Friday morning press conference.

President Shelly added that the new energy policy would give policy direction to the Navajo Nation for all energy projects.

“I ask the energy policy be passed,” President Shelly said adding that he supports NTEC and their acquisition of Navajo Mine.

In an earlier released statement, President Shelly stated, ““I am committed to supporting NTEC in order to keep paychecks going to our Navajo people. I have asked the council to ensure that the financial mechanism used will pay back any monies appropriated to the process.”

At the press conference, President Shelly used his to time to iterate the need for an updated energy policy on the Navajo Nation, which was formed in 1980.

President Shelly said he plans to work with the Navajo Council Johnny Naize to pass the Navajo Nation Energy Policy.

The Navajo Nation formed Navajo Transitional Energy Company to enable the Navajo Nation to acquire BHP Billiton’s Navajo Mine. Negotiations are still ongoing, however, Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates introduced a bill to provide seed money for the new company to finalize the purchase of Navajo Mine.

This would be the first coal mine solely owned by a Navajo Nation enterprise.

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Joint Press Release

Navajo Nation Office
of the President and the Vice President
and Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2013

Jared Touchin (OOS) 928-221-9253

Erny Zah (OPVP) 928-380-0771

President Shelly and Speaker Naize pledge full support for NTEC in its efforts to purchase BHP Navajo Mine

FARMINGTON, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Speaker Johnny Naize pledged their full support for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company—NTEC—and a funding resolution now making its way through the legislative process, during a meeting of the Navajo Nation's leadership yesterday.

"I am committed to supporting NTEC in order to keep paychecks going to our Navajo people. I have asked the council to ensure that the financial mechanism used will pay back any monies appropriated to the process," President Shelly stated.

President Shelly and Speaker Naize encouraged NTEC's officers and representatives to remain diligent in closing on the transactions now being negotiated with BHP Billiton.

"It is important for Navajo leadership to work collaboratively together and to respect the lines of authority during negotiations, for the success of this important project. We must keep lines of communication open between the parties involved," said Speaker Naize at yesterday's meeting.

Leaders in attendance further pledged the Nation's support for this endeavor, which has been made a top priority for both offices.

With this encouragement, President Shelly and Speaker Naize issued a joint letter directing several of the Nation's officers and personnel to allocate and contribute the full measure of their efforts to supporting NTEC in resolving any issues necessary to close on pending transactions.

The Nation's leadership has remained committed to the acquisition in order to preserve nearly 800 jobs and millions in revenue for the local economy and the Navajo Nation, in the form of taxes and lease payments.

On Wednesday, Council Delegate Lorenzo Bates introduced Legislation No. 0305-13, seeking funding from the Navajo Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to fund initial and immediate costs and obligations associated with the completion of ongoing negotiations and to close on the transactions for the acquisition of Navajo Mine from BHP Billiton. The legislation will be available for committee consideration on Oct. 8.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Health, Education, and Human Services Committee discusses report from Rough Rock Community School and academic program enhancements

WINDOW ROCK – On Wednesday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee discussed a report from the Rough Rock Community School regarding efforts to improve their Diné language programs and to establish a new horsemanship program.

The Rough Rock Community School is a tribally controlled school, offering a residential program for students from kindergarten through high school.

“It is my hope and dream to improve services at Rough Rock Community School. There are three areas I would like to come before the council,” said RRCS executive director Elvira Largie. “I would like for the HEHSC to sponsor a resolution which would exempt school educational programs from the sequestration and possibly secure funds from the Navajo Nation to enhance programs.”

Largie also asked for the HEHSC’s support in acquiring permanent funding for the enhancement of their Diné Studies, residential, and horsemanship programs.

HEHSC chair Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) briefly explained the budget and fiduciary process and expressed support for of the school’s effort to teach the children the significance of horsemanship and its role in Navajo culture.

“Your school’s interest in horsemanship is greatly supported. These are animals that cherish the soul and strengthen the resiliency to any sorrow or depression,” said Delegate Hale.

Largie added that RRCS currently serves 98 students and have experienced a 23% decrease in their budget since 2010.

“You have my support. You should be proud to come from a community where a lot of our Navajo language materials came from,” HEHSC member Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler (Tó Nanees Dizi). “The school has done great things for our language and we are always happy to hear of RRSC creativity.”

The HEHSC will vote to accept their report at their next scheduled meeting on Oct. 9.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nmlb.communications@gmail.com

**Delegate Bates sponsors legislation seeking \$4 million
For costs associated with the acquisition of BHP Navajo Mine**

WINDOW ROCK – Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) introduced Legislation No. 0305-13, seeking approximately \$4 million from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance to fund initial and immediate costs and obligations associated with the completion of ongoing negotiations and to close on the transactions for the acquisition of Navajo Mine from BHP Billiton.

On Apr. 29, the Council approved the formation of the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC to carry out necessary business actions on behalf of the Nation in its endeavors for the possible acquisition of the BHP Navajo Mine.

“When the Council formed NTEC, it empowered the NTEC board to carry out the purchase of Navajo Mine, but there was no funding behind it,” said co-sponsor Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood). “It is critical that NTEC be funded to carry out the next step in this process.”

Among other economic impacts, Speaker Naize pointed out that the purchase of Navajo Mine would preserve over 800 jobs at the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine, and preserve \$40 million of annual taxes and royalties to the Navajo Nation.

According to the legislation, if the proposed bill is approved by Council and executed by President Ben Shelly, the \$4 million will be released in three disbursements to NTEC.

The first disbursement totaling approximately \$1.6 million will be for NTEC’s pre-closing operating expenses and for outstanding invoices for transaction expenses.

In the second disbursement, approximately \$1.3 million will be released for additional estimated transaction expenses to closing, upon the signing of the Equity Interest Purchase Agreement between NTEC and BHP Billiton.

The final disbursement, totaling approximately \$1.1 million will be used for NTEC’s post-closing operating expenses, upon the closing of the Coal Supply Agreement between NTEC and the Four Corners Power Plant.

Initially, the Mine Management Agreement with BHP Billiton and a Coal Supply Agreement with APS, were scheduled to be completed by July of this year. However, due to several setbacks, NTEC's timeframe for completing the potential purchase has lessened.

Delegate Bates said the Arizona Corporation Commission's decision earlier this year to open an inquiry, which was closed in September, into the possible deregulation of the electric market in the State of Arizona was a major setback.

"Now that the ACC decision came down we can move, but what it has done is it has tightened up the calendar and timeline for the purchase," said Delegate Bates. "The Navajo Nation, APS, and BHP have to make decisions to stay within that timeline."

The cost of the mine is estimated to be \$85 million, for which a funding source has yet to be determined.

According to the assignment of legislation memorandum, the bill will be considered by the Resources and Development Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council.

Please visit <http://www.navajonationcouncil.org/Legislations/2013/Oct/0305-13.pdf> to view the proposed legislation. The five-day comment period for the legislation ends on Oct. 7.

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Naa'biki'yati' Committee approves NDOT general warranty deed



The Navajo Transportation Complex located in Tse Bonito, N.M., was constructed on 85.6 acres of land that was exchanged with the New Mexico State Land Office on Nov. 27, 2012. The Navajo Division of Transportation purchased a 3.6 acre tract of land in Silver City (of equivalent value) and exchanged it with NMSLO. Legislation No. 0255-13 was approved by the Naa'biki'yati' Committee on Sept. 26 and authorizes President Shelly to sign the general warranty deed for the land to be held in trust for the Navajo Nation. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK-Legislation No. 0255-13 was approved by the Naa'biki'yati Committee by a vote of 12-0 on Sept. 26, 2013.

Paulson Chaco, Navajo Division of Transportation director, said the legislation's passage was a good move for the Navajo Nation.

Chaco said, "We are moving quickly to take this land into trust for the benefit of the Navajo Nation."

The land exchange process was a true demonstration of government-to-government relations, he said, and that the land in Tse Bonito, N.M. will

also benefit the Navajo Nation with the potential for economic development.

A parcel of exchanged land adjacent to State Route 264 remains open for development.

Sponsored by delegate Walter Phelps (Bird Springs, Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake), the legislation approved and authorized Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly to sign the general warranty deed for 85.68 acres of land in Tse Bonito, to be held in trust for the Navajo Nation, pursuant to Public Law 93-531 and Public Law 96-305.

To expedite the process for

converting the land into trust, NDOT is utilizing the authorities of the Navajo Hopi Land Commission.

Phelps explained the land was exchanged with the state of New Mexico.

"NDOT acquired that land and the land is fee simple land right now," Phelps said. "We're in the process of taking the land into trust, using the Navajo Hopi Relocation Act, as amended."

On Nov. 27, 2012, the Indian Affairs Committee of the New Mexico Legislature convened at the State Capitol for a land exchange signing

ceremony between the Navajo Nation and the New Mexico State Land Office.

NDOT purchased 3.6 acres of land in Silver City, which was exchanged with the NMSLO for 85.6 acres of land in Tse Bonito. Both parcels of land were valued at \$200,000.

Initiating this land exchange process in March 2011 was N.M. Senator John Pinto's Senate Memorial 45, which requested the NMSLO to begin studying the land exchange with the Navajo Nation.

The memorial stated, "It may be in the best interests of the Navajo Nation to own the

land upon which the transportation center is to be located rather than to lease the land from the state.”

With the land exchange complete, NDOT has focused on taking the land into trust by the NHLC on behalf of the Navajo Nation.

NDOT will pay \$25,000 per year in rent to the NHLC.

Included in the agreement with the commission is the initial \$200,000 purchase price of the land in Silver City, a one-time payment of \$25,000 and the first year’s \$25,000 rental cost for a total of \$250,000.

The legislation reached the floor for debate.

One committee member did not think the arrangement was fair.

Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) raised the issue of NDOT being double charged by the commission for leasing the land.

“NDOT will be paying twice,” Benally said.

She said such costs would take away funding from the NDOT road projects.

“I don’t think NDOT should be paying twice for the purchase of the land and then trying to lease it out again. That’s ridiculous,” Benally said.

Her colleague Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hard Rock, Pinnon, Wipoorwill) countered that the NHLC’s first year payment of \$250,000 was still less than the \$260,000 in taxes that could be imposed by N.M. if the land was not taken into trust.

“We as a Commission, have a responsibility that in any of our future land purchases, we want to try to select for potential economic development so we can try to assist those families, individuals and communities that have been impacted by relocation,” Witherspoon said.

Leonard Tsosie (Baca-Pre-witt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) likened the insistence on rent as “a double shakedown.”

He admitted that the complications to take the land into trust could have easily been averted by constructing the building upon tribal lands to begin with.

“See, the bad way of doing it started when somebody planned the NDOT building over there. That should have been built in Window Rock, I don’t know why they did that,” Tsosie said. “But that was in the days before Mr. Chaco.”

He said members of the NHLC shouldn’t view their authority as being landlords over the money, but rather, looking at the process for the benefit of all Navajos.

“I’d like to use the Relocation Act to buy some lands in Colorado, south of Fort Lewis College, so we could build college dorms for Navajo kids,” Tsosie said.

Benally proposed an amendment to the legislation to cap the \$25,000 annual rental fee for a period of 10 years, but was voted down by 5-7.

Witherspoon, who also sits on the NHLC, said the rent was fair deal and that the commission was benefitting the Navajo Nation \$2.3 million over a 10-year period.

He maintained the funds would benefit people impacted by relocation.

The same day, the committee also approved Legislation No. 0268-13, which was for approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Navajo Nation and San Juan County, N.M. for the road maintenance and road improvement projects.

The legislation passed again with a vote of 12-0.



Council delegate Walter Phelps sponsored the legislation. Joining him during the presentation was NDOT director Paulson Chaco and DOJ attorney Karis Begay. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Left, delegate Leonard Tsosie said the Navajo Hopi Land Commission’s plans to charge NDOT rent in the amount of \$25,000 per year was a “double shakedown.” Right, Delegate Dwight Witherspoon disagreed and said the Commission’s efforts would save the Navajo Nation over \$2.5 million in the long run. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Resources and Development Chairwoman Katherine Benally disagreed with rental provisions in the legislation and said NDOT would be getting double charged, although they originally purchased the land that was exchanged with the state of New Mexico. (Photo by Rick Abasta)



Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

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President Shelly Issues Statement Regarding Government Shutdown

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly released a statement today about the status of the Navajo Nation government since the Oct. 1 shutdown of the U.S. Government.

“Nearly all of our offices remain open for the Navajo Nation government. Although many of our programs receive federal funds, our government is open and continues to serve the Navajo people, including all Navajo Nation Tribal Parks.

However, we urge lawmakers in Washington to come to a solution because the Navajo Nation will eventually begin to experience effects if the shutdown continues.

I assure the Navajo people that we are continually preparing ourselves for future situations that may arise from the federal government closure. As president, I have continually pushed for fiscal responsibility because we cannot always depend on the federal government to solve issues we can solve for ourselves.

The federal government shutdown is an opportunity for the Navajo Nation to begin to exercise true sovereignty. Though we need our federal partners to assist us, we can continue to establish and practice governmental policies that strengthen the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation recognizes that many people have been planning vacations to experience America’s great outdoors. Although all U.S. National Parks are closed due to the federal government shutdown, I extend a special invitation to family vacationers and visitors to experience the beauty of the Navajo Nation in our tribal parks in Northern Arizona and the Four Corners region. Come experience the majestic scenery of Monument Valley, the vibrant colors of Antelope Canyon, or experience one of our casinos hotel resorts. We welcome all visitors to the Navajo Nation.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.380.4174
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Budget and Finance Committee approves the Gaming Development Fund budget for FY2014

TOHAJILEE, N.M. – The Budget and Finance Committee on Tuesday, approved the Gaming Development Fund budget for FY2014 for approximately \$6.1 million, including one amendment. The original proposed budget amounted to approximately \$8 million.

The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, and Navajo Nation Gaming Regulatory Office recommended the following appropriations: \$566,000 to the development fund, \$1.9 million to NNGE, and \$5.6 million to the NNGRO.

“It takes a lot of resources to monitor and manage the [gaming] funds, and we request to keep the personnel line item as is [for gaming development],” said Controller Mark Grant. “And the line item for contractual services in the amount of \$469,000 for financial advisors, legal counsel, and feasibility studies as well.”

NNGRO is responsible for the daily operations and personnel for all gaming sites on the Navajo Nation, and will be allocated the majority of the funding in the amount of \$5.6 million.

“I see detailed budgets from OOC and NNGRO, but I do not see one for NNGE,” said BFC member Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock).

In response to Delegate Simpson’s concern, BFC chair LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’kaa, Upper Fruitland) stated that the NNGE appropriation would be used for operations and any new developments.

“It sounds like there is additional information that committee is going to need,” said BFC vice chair Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin). “NNGE needs to clarify what their budget will be used for.”

Delegate Simpson motioned to amend the legislation by deleting NNGE’s \$1.9 million budget, meaning that NNGE will have to submit a detailed budget proposal under a new legislation.

BFC members voted 3-0 to pass the amendment. The amendment does not impact the gaming development fund and NNGRO budget.

“Initially, I was against putting all this money into gaming,” said BFC member Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaille/Wheatfields, Tse Ch’izhi). “At this point, they should already be self-sufficient and able to fund their own operations because we were told they were on their feet now.”

At the conclusion of the discussion, the BFC voted 3-0 to pass Legislation No. 0281-13 with one amendment.

The BFC initially considered and tabled the legislation on Sept. 23 to allow the OOC, NNGE, and NNGRO to further discuss and clarify the budget forms and line items.

BFC is the final authority for the legislation.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Naabik'iyáti' Committee tables bond financing bill aiming to fund economic development and infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation

WINDOW ROCK – After nearly nine hours of debate, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee tabled Legislation No. 0213-13, the Navajo Nation's intent to reimburse itself with proceeds of the General Obligation Bonds and/or the Draw-Down General Obligation Bonds for prior expenditures relating to the bond project list and to authorize the issuance of bonds for \$220 million to fund certain debts and to finance economic development and infrastructure projects.

The legislation aims to allow the Navajo Nation to issue bonds to investors, and in the form of bank loan(s), to finance certain infrastructure projects in each of the Nation's five agencies, outlined in the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development's five-year economic development plan.

"We will be taking a loan or a bond out to fund the projects that were recommended by the seven Regional Business Development [Offices] under Division of Economic Development," said legislation prime sponsor Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta).

A similar resolution, Legislation CJN-24-13, was passed by the Council during a special session held on June 28. However, on July 12 President Ben Shelly vetoed the legislation, stating that the language in the bill needed to be further defined.

Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) spoke in support of the bill and provided a timeline for his committee colleagues.

"There are deadlines that have to be met. The deadline we have before us is in January to be able to issue the bonds," said Delegate Bates. "If for some reason, we as a Nation miss that deadline, we have to go through this entire process again."

The majority of Monday's discussion centered on a proposed amendment to a portion of the bill that grants a limited waiver of sovereign immunity of the Navajo Nation and consents to the arbitration of disputes and the jurisdiction of the courts of the Navajo Nation, the state of New York, and the federal courts of the United States located in New York.

Supporters of the waiver argued that in order to issue bonds in the State of New York, and to fully participate and reap the full economic benefits, the Nation must grant the limited waiver and allow for other courts to possibly have jurisdiction in the event of future litigations.

“A lot of you are not satisfied with what the current system gives you. It’s not paying for projects at your chapters,” said Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins). “We don’t have the kind of money to pay for these projects. This is the alternative.”

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) argued that the waiver would jeopardize the Nation’s assets in the event of future litigations.

“States issue bonds too. If state courts are allowed in litigation, what is the difference?” asked Delegate Tsosie. “The only thing I could see is the color of the skin. State of Arizona, State of New Mexico — they freely do this and I’m pretty sure this kind of language is not being sought from those states.”

Following a lengthy debate, committee members voted 9-7 to approve the amendment.

During the course of discussion, several delegates expressed frustration and confusion over the project listing distributed at the start of the discussion, which did not contain specific projects that were included in a previous listing.

Delegate Tsosie eventually motioned to table the legislation, along with a directive to conduct a work session to clarify and further discuss the project listing within 30 days.

Naabik’iyáti’ Committee members voted 13-2 to table the legislation.

Legislation No. 0213-13 requires a two-thirds vote, or sixteen votes of approval, to pass the bill.

The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for the legislation.

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Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications
Cell: (928) 380-0771
navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

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Navajo President Shelly Signs Navajo Nation FY 2014 Budget

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed the 2014 fiscal year comprehensive budget into law and line item vetoed at least \$8.7 million in supplemental appropriations passed by the Navajo Nation Council earlier this month, which would have left \$107 in the Undesignated Unreserved Fund Balance (UUFB).

President Shelly signed the budget with the line item vetoes Friday late afternoon.

“As leaders, we have an obligation to act fiscally responsible,” President Shelly said. “When the Shelly/ Jim administration took office, the Navajo Nation was more than \$20 million in the red. I took the strong position that the UUFB should maintain \$20 million above the minimum UUFB balance mandated by Navajo law, which could be used for emergencies and other unforeseen budget cutbacks.”

As part of the comprehensive budget, all general funded Navajo Nation employees are scheduled for a three percent wage increase; the Navajo Nation Area Agency on Aging budget will minimize layoffs; decentralization planning to bring more services to local communities was funded at \$3 million and \$2.9 million was budgeted for the Land Department to establish a registry of land records on the Navajo Nation.

“It is important to weigh and thoroughly consider all appropriations that utilize the Navajo People’s money. Especially with the current environment in Washington, D.C. it is important for us to make these wise decisions,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly line item vetoed about \$5 million in proposed spending from the UUFB and about \$994,000 from the Personnel Savings Fund.

“The Personnel Savings Fund and the UUFB are sources that depend on external conditions for funding. Those conditions can fluctuate each year and change the amount of money we have in those accounts. Therefore, we must exercise great caution when budgeting money from these sources and follow all applicable Navajo laws regarding spending of the Navajo People’s money,” President Shelly.

Most of the line items were vetoed because of failures to comply with budgetary processes outline by an executive order or the Appropriations Act, or the budget instruction manual.

The following supplemental requests were line item vetoed:

- \$3 million from proposed infrastructure spending for the former Bennett Freeze area in the Western portion of the Navajo Nation.
- \$3 million for Public Employment Funds for the 110 chapters.
- \$1.2 million for chapter improvements.
- A \$500,000 fuel cost supplemental appropriation.
- \$550,000 for General Activity Fund Balance to be split with all 110 chapters.

“The total amount returned to the UUFB is about \$8.7 million,” said President Shelly.

“It is important that the budget supplement requests comply with the Navajo Nation Appropriations Act, all policies and procedures created by FY 2014 Budget Instructions and Policies Manual and other pertinent Navajo laws,” President Shelly wrote.

The Navajo Council cannot override the line item vetoes exercised by the Navajo Nation president.

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