



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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CONTACT:

SHERRICK S. ROANHORSE
EXECUTIVE STAFF ASSISTANT
928.871.7001 Office
928.255.2132 Cell

Navajo Vice President Ben Shelly welcomes Congressman Ben Ray Lujan to Navajo capital to discuss federal stimulus package, meet leadership

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly on Friday welcomed newly-elected U.S. Representative Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico to the Navajo Nation to discuss health care construction funding, water rights, and infrastructure development.

The Vice President thanked Congressman Lujan for working with the Navajo Nation and for being mindful of its need for development and public works jobs.

“He voted to support the House’s version of the ‘Recovery and Reinvestment Act,’ and his first actions in Congress show good leadership for his constituents in New Mexico, many of whom are from the Navajo Nation,” the Vice President said.

Last week, Congressman Lujan supported the “Recovery and Reinvestment Act.” It passed on a vote of 244 to 188.

Congressman Lujan next met with Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan and several council delegates from the Eastern Agency to issues specific to the eastern areas of the Navajo Nation.

Funding for Indian Health Service facility construction and Bureau of Indian Affairs roads and detention facilities were among the items included in the bill.

“The House passed its version of the stimulus bill, which includes funding for important areas such as healthcare, roads, energy development, broadband for rural areas, and housing,” Vice President Shelly said. “Language to eliminate cost-sharing for American Indians and Alaska Natives in Medicaid was also included and I commend Congressman Lujan and his colleagues, Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick, Harry Teague, and Martin Heinrich, for pushing needed legislation.”

On Jan. 21, Vice President Shelly met Congressman Lujan in Washington at his Cannon House Building office to congratulate him and to present him with the Navajo Nation’s



Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly, right, welcomed newly-elected U.S. Representative Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico to the Navajo Nation last Friday to discuss health care construction funding, water rights, and infrastructure development.

stimulus request plan and the “Navajo Nation Federal Agenda for the Obama-Biden Transition Team and the 111th Congress.”

“The people of New Mexico need relief in these difficult economic times,” Congressman Lujan said in a statement. “The American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan will help communities and families throughout New Mexico who need help the most. The recovery plan focuses on job creation through infrastructure projects, renewable energy development, school modernization and other important projects that will help many communities and put people back to work. I look forward to maintaining an open dialogue with local leaders as the recovery plan moves forward and begins to impact the people of New Mexico.”

This week, the U.S. Senate is expected to consider and vote on its version of the stimulus bill.