



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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CONTACT:

SHERRICK S. ROANHORSE
EXECUTIVE STAFF ASSISTANT
sroanhorse@opvp.org
928.871.7003 OFFICE
928.255.2132 MOBILE

Navajo Vice President Ben Shelly thanks Utah Governor Jon Huntsman for supporting state-tribal child support enforcement efforts

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Navajo Vice President Ben Shelly thanked Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. for strengthening state and tribal relationships during a meeting last week.

"Through your support and efforts, many departments within the State of Utah have started consultation efforts," said Vice President Shelly. "Through partnerships and ongoing communication, the State of Utah and the Navajo Nation can provide better services for the Navajo people living in Utah."

Recently, Governor Huntsman was tapped by President Barack Obama to serve as U.S. Ambassador to China. Once confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Lieutenant Governor Gary Herbert will assume office as Governor of Utah.

"We have a collaborative relationship where we can resolve issues," said Governor Huntsman. "We need to continue close consultation with tribes and these efforts will continue with Lieutenant Governor Herbert."

Since January, Vice President Shelly, Human Resources Division Director Lawrence Oliver, and the Department of

Child Support Enforcement initiated efforts to better coordinate child support enforcement issues with the Utah Department of Human Services.

"Governor Huntsman made a commitment to work with tribes on several issues, such as child enforcement issues," said Vice President Shelly. "Progress is being made and through communication and collaboration, we can better services for the Navajo people."

In February, the Utah Legislature passed a state resolution, sponsored by Utah Rep. Christine Watkins (District 69) to request the U.S. Congress amend existing federal laws to better accommodate the need for the Navajo Nation to create its own child support enforcement tracking mechanisms.

Last year the Navajo Department of Child Support Enforcement collected \$8 million in child support for Navajo children.

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