



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Navajo Nation Speaker Issues Proclamation

Speaker Morgan encourages people to participate and support historic Long Walk 2

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) issued a proclamation supporting the momentous *Longest Walk 2*, as hundreds of walkers began embarking upon a five-month walk from Alcatraz, Calif. to Washington D.C. for environmental protection and Native American rights.

In his proclamation, Speaker Morgan said that “in February 2008, in celebration of the 30 years of the first Longest Walk, Indigenous people and people from around the world will be recreating the feat, this time under the banner ‘All Life is Sacred – Save Mother Earth – Protect Sacred Sites.’

Speaker Morgan stated, on behalf of the 21st Navajo Nation Council, that protecting Native American sovereignty and commemorating the first Longest Walk 30 years earlier in support of all treaties dealing with sovereignty of Indian Nations must be respected.

In addition, Speaker Morgan stated the continual honoring of our culture pertaining to the environment, which includes addressing and protecting sacred sites is an issue of freedom of religion – and is also a priority of this second recreation of the Longest Walk.

Organizers said participants will listen to concerns from Native people on two separate transcontinental routes that stretch across the country and they plan to document and deliver them to United States officials in Washington, D.C. They plan to arrive in Washington D.C. on July 11.

Organizers have touted the event as stating they want to “raise awareness about the planetary crisis by walking to reconnect with the land, increase respect for cultural diversity, stimulate dialogue about connections between nature and culture, and protect sacred lands and diverse spiritual practices.”

Morning Star Gali, Ajumawi Band of the Pit River Nation and Advocates to Protect Sacred Sites said, “The Longest Walk 2 represents the deep spiritual commitment, we have to take action and confront issues that are harming our communities on local and global levels.”

And, that is a belief shared by Speaker Morgan.

The Longest Walk 2 follows two routes, a northern and a southern route, that will cover more than 8,000 miles in total. Participants will be stopping each evening in communities along the way, as people from all over the world will be joining the walk with its peaceful and spiritual call to action to protect Mother Earth and defend Human Rights.

In a press release issued earlier this month from the Longest Walk 2 website, www.longestwalk.org, Dennis Banks, the co-founder of the American Indian Movement said, “the 2008 walk will mark the 30th anniversary of the original Longest Walk of 1978 that resulted in historic changes for Native America. In July of 1978, thousands converged on the nation’s capitol to immobilize 11 pieces of legislation in Congress that

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Page 2-2-2/Butler/ Navajo Nation Speaker Issues Proclamation

would have abrogated Native American Treaties.”

“The Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker endorses the Longest Walk 2,” Speaker Morgan said. “We are urging the citizens of the Navajo Nation to support and participate in this significant occasion.”

The Longest Walk 2 officially began on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

For more information, contact Joshua Lavar Butler with the Office of the Speaker at 928-871-6384.

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