



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

Contact: Joshua Lavar Butler, Communications Director

Bronson Peshlakai, Public Information Officer

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

joshualavarbutler@navajo.org

joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com

www.navajonationcouncil.org

May 15, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navajo Council Delegate Maxx testifies in Washington

Senate hearing on S.B. 531 prevents reinstatement of Bennett Freeze

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation Council Delegate Raymond Maxx provided testimony on S.B. 531 on behalf of the 21st Navajo Nation Council today, March 15 in Washington, D.C.

Maxx explained that, "this legislation — when passed — will forever remove or prevent the reinstatement of the Bennett Freeze."

The position paper on this legislation was reviewed and authorized by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the 21st Navajo Nation Council recently. This legislation is very important for the Navajo people living in the Bennett Freeze area of the Navajo Nation.

Maxx is the Council Delegate that represents the far western chapters of Coalmine Canyon and Toh Nanees Dizi (Tuba City), both of these chapters have been negatively impacted by the Bennett Freeze.

U.S. Sen. Byron L. Dorgan, D-N.D, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs invited the Navajo Nation's participation in this hearing.

The senate hearing also involved legislation S.B. 1080, which is the Crow Tribe Land Restoration Act; H.R. 2120, which is legislation to direct the Secretary of the Interior to proclaim as reservation for the benefit of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians a parcel of land now held by the U.S. for that tribe; S.B. 2494, which involves the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Equitable Compensation Settlement Act; H.R. 2963, which involves the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2007; and S.B. 531, which is the bill to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93-531 known as the "Bennett Freeze."



- ### -