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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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Office of President not cooperating with Speaker regarding Toyei Industries, Fort Wingate MOU team

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Office of the President is not cooperating with the Office of the Speaker on important efforts that are in the best interest of the Navajo Nation.

Various written requests have been made to the Office of the President from the Office of the Speaker to finalize solutions on various open issues important to the Navajo Nation, such as with Toyei Industries Inc. and the on-going clean up and final disposition of military lands on Fort Wingate Military Reservation.

In regards to Toyei Industries Inc., which was created in the late 1970s to address the needs of individuals with mental disabilities, has failed to gain support from the Navajo Division of Health and the Navajo Division of Social Services – both divisions under the executive branch – for any technical assistance and even the timely support of contract approval.

As with the Fort Wingate Military Reservation lands, clean up is currently being conducted by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and is monitored by the New Mexico Environmental Department with guidance from the Fort Wingate MOU team. The Fort Wingate MOU team consists of the Navajo Nation, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Regional Office, the Pueblo of Zuni and the BIA Southwest Region.

Much work remains on the both issues and are pertinent to the Navajo Nation's best interest. It is important for the Office of the President to be active in the discussion of the issues because the lack of cooperation from the president may delay the resolution on the two matters.

Speaker Morgan said these matters are important to the Navajo Nation and would need assistance from the Office of the President to keep the matters moving forward.

"These are open issues of the Navajo Nation and it is important that the President be involved in the progression of the issues," Speaker Morgan said. "These are projects needing immediate attention."

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