



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2012

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22nd Navajo Nation Council endorses Wenona Benally Baldenegro

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Wenona Benally Baldenegro is officially endorsed by the 22nd Navajo Nation Council as result of legislation sponsored by Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin).

"I want to mention that this legislation is here as an endorsement for Wenona for the first congressional district in Arizona," said Delegate Nez in his opening remarks to the committee.

I am proud to say this individual – our daughter, our granddaughter, our sister, our niece, nihimayazhi – is going to be the first native women to serve in the US House of Representatives."

Although Council Delegate Nez was the primary sponsor on Legislation No. 0283-12, 18 council delegates signed on as cosponsors of the legislation.

"The 22nd Navajo Nation Council hereby endorses the candidacy of Wenona Benally-Baldenegro as the Democratic Candidate in the Democratic Primary for the First Congressional District in Arizona," was written in the legislation.

"I respect what she has done in her life. We have an opportunity, as the Navajo Nation, to send our own – one who understands the Navajo people – to congress," added Delegate Nez. "We have an opportunity to put her in one of the highest seats in the United States of America."

Legislation No. 0283-12 was considered at yesterday’s Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee meeting and passed with a vote of thirteen (13) supporting and one (1) opposing.

Speaker Johnny Naize certified the legislation with his signature this morning.

"I feel strongly about the Navajo Nation Council supporting Wenona," Speaker Naize said as he signed the resolution. "She has the education and her experience of growing up on the Navajo Nation will help to inform her decision making."

The legislation was posted to the Navajo Nation Council website for the five-day bill hold period, during which 56 digital comments were submitted. All fifty-six comments were in support of Benally Baldenegro’s bid for congress, including encouragement for the committee to support the legislation.

The Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee has steadfastly supported Wenona Benally Baldenegro and

previously directed Speaker Johnny Naize to host a fundraising dinner for Congressional candidate Wenona Benally Baldenegro.

The dinner fundraiser took place at the Navajo Nation Veteran's Memorial Park on July 16 and raised approximately \$4,500.

No American Indian woman has served in the U.S. Congress and no American has served in Congress from Arizona. Benally Baldenegro could be the first American Indian woman to serve in Congress.

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