



Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

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NEWS RELEASE:

Legislative Branch funds partially restored, still no funds for ‘Green Commission’

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly exercised his line-item veto authority for the second time since taking office; vetoing funding for the Navajo Green Economy Commission for the second time.

Legislation 0485-11, sponsored by Council Delegate Danny Simpson, amended the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2012 comprehensive budget to provide for the appropriation of \$1,589,432 of projected revenues.

The legislation was passed by Council during the 2012 Winter Session with a vote of eighteen (18) supporting and three (3) opposing.

In a memo to Speaker Naize (dated February 3), the President Shelly wrote that he “has line-item veto authority for budget items within the annual Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget or Supplemental appropriations, which are not subjected to override by the Navajo Nation Council.”

Speaker Johnny Naize and Council Delegates have been working diligently to restore funds that were line-item vetoed by the President on September 22, 2011.

The initial line-item veto resulted in the Legislative Branch losing \$2.8 million, which included \$397 thousand from the Office of the Speaker and \$1.9 million from the Office of Legislative Services.

President Shelly vetoed \$235,681 from the Office of the Navajo Green Economy Commission. The budget would have provided for such things as personnel expenses, travel expenses, meeting expenses, supplies, and communications.

“My Administration has commented to the health of the People, a more environmentally aware government, and establishing more jobs for the People. These objectives are the same administrative responsibilities established by the Green Commission, in order to prevent

duplication and promote efficient and financial utilization of the Nation's resources," the President stated.

President Shelly also vetoed \$37,150 from the Office of the Speaker, which was intended for non-capital assets.

The amounts that were included in legislation 0485-11 were prorated for eight (8) months of the original amount that was included in the September 9, 2011 Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2012 comprehensive budget.

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