



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Speaker Naize delivers report centered on energy issues to the  
22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council on the first day of the Summer Session**

**WINDOW ROCK**—On the first day of the Navajo Nation Council Summer Session, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) delivered a written report to fellow Council colleagues highlighting progress on critical issues facing the Nation.

Speaker Naize’s report began with mentioning the need to address drought conditions as it pertains to livestock throughout the Navajo Nation.

“Water is becoming scarce in certain regions of our Nation so we must use extra precautions to protect the well-being of your livestock,” mentioned Speaker Naize in the report.

On June 28 during a special session, the Council approved Legislation No. 0190-13, allocating \$3 million for the Navajo Department of Water to address severe drought conditions. However, President Ben Shelly issued a line-item veto for the funding, citing non-compliance with the Navajo Nation Appropriations Act, in a memo dated July 8.

A large portion of Speaker Naize’s report centered on energy issues, including ongoing negotiations between the Navajo Nation and SRP officials over the Navajo Generating Station lease extension.

“This lease amendment negotiation has been a long and arduous process,” stated Speaker Naize in his written report. “It is my feeling that we have provided the best opportunity given the circumstances to convey our perspective to this negotiation.”

Legislation No. 0042-13, the NGS lease extension passed by Council during a special session held on Apr. 29, was deemed unacceptable by SRP officials due to certain amendments added prior to the passage of the legislation.

As a result, Speaker Naize sponsored Legislation No. 0177-13, seeking an agreement between all parties regarding the indenture of lease.

Speaker’s report described the proposed legislation as, “an amicable agreement that provides a compromise that ensures adequate protection for SRP and the Navajo Nation, and provides a workable solution for the plant to continue its operations.”

The report also touched upon the pending acquisition of the BHP Navajo Mine by the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC.

Speaker Naize explained in the report that the mine purchase has recently stalled due to the possible deregulation of the retail energy market in the state of Arizona, and remains hopeful that the deregulation issue will be resolved by Oct. of this year, and allow for the completion of the mine purchase.

Aside from energy issues, Speaker Naize's report also focused on the negotiations between the Navajo Nation and Zuni Tribe over approximately 21,000 acres of parceled land known as the Fort Wingate Army Depot, located six-miles east of Gallup, NM.

Members of the Fort Wingate Task Force, the Eastern Navajo Land Commission, and Speaker Naize met with New Mexico Congressman Ben Lujan (District-3), New Mexico Congressman Steve Pearce (District-2), Alaska Congressman Don Young, and Pueblo of Zuni Governor Arlen Quetawki, Sr. on July 8, to negotiate a fair and equitable division of land with the Zuni Tribe, according to the report.

"I want to ensure my colleagues that the negotiation took into consideration all the perspectives of our people and we worked to gain the best division of land considering the situation," stated Speaker Naize's written report.

On the federal level, Speaker Naize noted that he along with President Ben Shelly, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Eastern Navajo Land Commission, and personnel from the Navajo Land Department met with officials from the Cobell Land Buy-Back Program on June 19, to discuss a plan of action and development of the Navajo Nation's Land Buy-Back Program.

Other topics addressed in Speaker Naize's report included the newly opened Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort and the need to continue pursuing the needs of Navajo Veterans.

The Navajo Nation Council voted 10-3 to accept the report.

To view a copy of Speaker Naize's Summer Council Session report, please visit:

<http://www.navajonationcouncil.org/pressReleases/2013/JUL/3rd%20Quarter%20Report.pdf>

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