



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2013

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**Speaker Naize delivers report to the
Navajo Nation Council on the first day of the Fall Session**

WINDOW ROCK—Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) provided a written report to the Council highlighting progress on core issues and initiatives on the first day of the Navajo Nation Council’s Fall Session.

Speaker Naize began by commending the Council for passing the Nation’s FY2014 Comprehensive Budget and shared his disappointment with President Ben Shelly’s line-item veto of certain allocations, including \$3 million for projects in the Former Bennett Freeze area, approved by Council during its annual budget hearings held in September.

“This funding had the potential to benefit many of our Diné citizens living in this particular area,” said Speaker Naize in the written report. “The veto power granted to President Shelly by the people is very general in its definition and questions still remain as to how the veto power can and should be used.”

Concerning the Nation’s energy issues, Speaker Naize advocated for the possible purchase of the BHP Navajo Mine through the Nation’s wholly owned subsidiary, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC.

“We have invested a tremendous amount of human and financial resources to bear on the solution to this dilemma, and I believe we are nearing a successful end to this epic challenge,” stated Speaker Naize in his report.

Speaker Naize continued on to state that NTEC will not only provide immediate economic stability, but it will also allow the Nation to transition to renewable energy resources by devoting 10 percent of its annual net income to developing new technology for clean energy development.

“NTEC represents a pragmatic path of transition to an era of cleaner and renewable energy by expanding the Navajo economy, rather than disrupting the economy by abandoning its coal assets,” Speaker Naize stated in his report to Council.

The report also touched upon the proposed Navajo Energy Policy of 2013, which is an item currently on the Council’s Fall Session agenda.

“The policy outlines a basic framework for which our Nation can work with other entities to effectively use our resources for energy development,” stated Speaker Naize. “I understand that

delegates have questions and concerns and I encourage each of you to voice your recommendations and amendments as we discuss the legislation.”

The proposed policy was discussed during a special session held last Wednesday, however, Council lost quorum prior to the vote on the main motion.

Other topics included in Speaker Naize’s report include the Fort Wingate Military Depot negotiations with the Zuni Tribe, the Nation’s proposed Gaming Compact with the State of New Mexico, the Cobell Land Buy-Back Program, and the ongoing “regionalization” initiative.

At the conclusion of the report, Speaker Naize outlines key issues that his administration plans to focus on in the next quarter including, the Navajo Area Agency on Aging, Navajo Housing Authority, the Former Bennett Freeze area, water rights, and sacred sites.

The Navajo Nation Council voted 13-1 to accept the report.

To view Speaker Naize’s full report, please visit:

http://www.navajonationcouncil.org/pressReleases/2013/OCT/Speakers_Report_Fall_2013_Session.pdf.

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