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Council tables the Navajo Nation FY 2014 Comprehensive Budget

WINDOW ROCK – Friday evening, the Navajo Nation Council tabled Legislation No. 0247-13, the Navajo Nation Fiscal Year 2014 comprehensive budget.

After lengthy discussions and the approval of 30 amendments over the course of three days, Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) motioned to table the legislation and requested for a special session, noting that the FY 2014 comprehensive budget requires two-thirds majority approval, or sixteen supporting votes, by Council.

“The legislation requires super majority and we need full membership here,” said Delegate Nez.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) supported the tabling motion, adding that he would not seek a continuing resolution.

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) urged his Council colleagues to support a continuing resolution.

“If the vote is not here then it should be deemed that this legislation failed and we should start off with a continuing resolution on Monday,” stated Delegate Tsosie. “The wise thing to do is have a continuing resolution.”

At the conclusion of the debate, Council members voted 15-1 in support of the tabling motion.

A special session to address the FY 2014 comprehensive budget is scheduled to begin on Monday, at 1 P.M. at the Council Chambers in Window Rock.

If the budget is approved on Monday, Council will remain in compliance with a requirement which mandates that Council adopt a comprehensive budget 20 days prior to the new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

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