



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Speaker Bates: President Begaye contradicts his words through his actions

WINDOW ROCK – In response to a press release issued by the Office of the President and Vice President on Friday, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) reaffirmed his position that President Russell Begaye erred in his recent line item veto actions to the detriment of many Navajo people.

On Feb. 16, the Navajo Nation Council approved \$299,193 for St. Bonaventure Indian Mission School to purchase new buses for the benefit of hundreds of Navajo students, \$300,000 for Toyei Industries Inc., which is a non-profit organization that provides critical services for developmentally disabled and mentally ill Navajo people, and \$148,325 to assist the Phoenix Indian Center with providing important services to thousands of Navajo people who reside in the city of Phoenix. President Begaye fully denied each of these funding requests.

In his March 4 memoranda that were attached to the resolutions passed by the Council, President Begaye clearly wrote that he exercised the presidential line item veto authority to deny the full funding requests for each of the three entities.

“Anyone who reads what the President wrote and signed off on will see that he denied the full funding requests,” said Speaker Bates. “President Begaye may claim that he intended to approve a portion of the funding requests, but he is completely contradicting his words through his actions. What he put on paper and signed off on takes precedence over his effort to backtrack through his public statements.”

In reference to the three funding requests, President Begaye wrote:

“After review of Resolution No. CF-21-18, I hereby exercise my line-item veto to:

1. Section Three. Approving the Supplemental Appropriation from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$148,325.00 for Phoenix Indian Center, BU No. 119025.”

“After review of Resolution No. CF-19-18, I hereby exercise my line-item veto to:

1. Section Three. Approving the Supplemental Appropriation from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$300,000, for Toyei Industries, Inc.”

“After review of Resolution No. CF-17-18, I hereby exercise my line-item veto to:
1. Section Three. Approving the Supplemental Appropriation from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$299,139.00 grant to the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission School.

“With each of these written statements the President removes the full appropriations that were approved by the Council,” said Speaker Bates. “President Begaye cannot say one thing and do another.”

Speaker Bates also reaffirmed his stance that President Begaye continues his misguided practice of the presidential line item veto authority, which is an authority that was granted by Navajo voters through a referendum in 2009.

“This is not about ‘playing politics’ as President Begaye has alleged. It is about holding President Begaye accountable for his erroneous actions,” Speaker Bates added. “President Begaye is not above the line item veto authority granted to him by the Navajo people.”

“The President is attempting to legislate by picking and choosing specific items to fund, which is the function and authority of the Council,” Speaker Bates stated.

Attached are the three line item veto memoranda from President Begaye. The highlighted portions clearly show that the President denied \$299,193 for St. Bonaventure Indian Mission School, \$300,000 for Toyei Industries Inc., and \$148,325 for the Phoenix Indian Center.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Russell Begaye, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE: March 4, 2018

SUBJECT: Resolution No. CF-17-18: RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, NABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FROM THE UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT \$299, 139.00 IN THE FORM OF A GRANT FOR THE ST. BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION SCHOOL TO PURCHASE THREE SCHOOL BUSES

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. 1005 (C)(10), action for Resolution No. CF-17-18 is being submitted to the Navajo Nation Council, through the Office of the Speaker within the ten (10) days requirement. Furthermore, the Navajo Nation President has line item veto authority for budget items within the annual Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget or Supplemental Appropriations, which are not subject to override by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. 164 (A)(17).

After review of **Resolution No. CF-17-18**, I hereby exercise my line-veto to:

- Section Three. APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FROM THE UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$299,139.00 GRANT TO THE ST. BONAVENTURE INDIAN MISSION SCHOOL**
- EXHIBIT A. BUDGET FORM 1. Part III Budget Summary. 9000 Capital Outlay.**
- EXHIBIT A. BUDGET FORM 4. 9150, 9156 42 Passenger bus x \$89,760.09 x 1 bus = \$89,760.00 in amount of \$89,760.00**

The justification and details for use of the President's line-item veto is set forth below.

The Office of the President and Vice President ("OPVP") fully supports two (2) 71 passenger buses for the Indian School. It is important to have safe and reliable transportation for our students. As such I support an appropriation for two (2) buses. However, I have also been informed by the Controller the Navajo Nation is facing a growing deficit this upcoming 2019 budget. As the President of the Navajo Nation, I must protect to the best of my ability future governmental operations and continued services to our People. Therefore, I must exercise my line-item veto authority for the third bus.




THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Russell Begaye, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE: March 4, 2018

SUBJECT: **Resolution No. CF-19-18: RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, NABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FROM THE UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000, FOR TOYEI INDUSTRIES, INC.**

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. 1005 (C)(10), action for Legislation CF-19-18 is being submitted to the Navajo Nation Council, through the Office of the Speaker within the ten (10) days requirement. Furthermore, the Navajo Nation President has line item veto authority for budget items within the annual Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget or Supplemental Appropriations, which are not subject to override by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. 164 (A)(17).

After review of Resolution No. CF-19-18, I hereby exercise my line-veto to:

- 1. Section Three. Approving the Supplemental Funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance the amount of \$300,000, for the Toyey Industries, Inc.**
- 2. EXHIBIT C. BUDGET FORM 1. Part III Budget Summary. 3500. Meeting Expenses (B) in the amount of 9,000 (C) in the amount of 9,000; 4000 Supplies (B) in the amount of 22,500 (C) in the amount of 22,500; Lease and Rental (B) in the amount of 2,800 (C) in the amount of 2,800; 5500 Communications and Utilities (B) in the amount of 30,000 (C) in the amount of 30,000; 6000 Repairs and Maintenance (B) in the amount of 3,200 (C) in the amount of 3,200; 6500 Contractual Services (B)**

in the amount of 66,393 (C) in the amount of 66,393; 7000 Special Transactions (B) in the amount of 17,500 (C) in the amount of 17,500; 9000 Capital Outlay (B) in the amount of 40,000 (C) in the amount of 40,000

- 3. EXHIBIT C. BUDGET FORM 4. 2610 in the amount of 9,000, 3611 Stipend Meetings in the amount of 2,000, 3612 Meals and Lodging in the amount of 6,000, 3613 Meetings in the amount of 1,000; 4410 in the amount of 22,500, 4460 Food Supplies in the amount of 15,000; 4490 Custodial Supplies in the amount of 1,500; 4610 in the amount of 1,000; 4700 in the amount of 5,000; 5110, 5100 Lease in the amount of 2,800; 5500, Communications & Utilities in the amount of 30,000, 5520, 5530 Basic Services – Telephone in the amount of 12,000, 5710, 5720 Electric in the amount of 3,000, 5710, 5740 Propane in the amount of 8,000; 5750, 5770 Sewage in the amount of 7,000; 6000 Repairs and Maintenance in the amount of 3,200, 6020, 6030 Building R&M Supplies in the amount of 2,000, 6420 Automobile in the amount of 1,200; 6550 Other Professional Services in the amount of 66,393, 6520, 6530 Consulting in the amount of 66,393; 7710 Insurance Premiums in the amount of 17,500; 9160, 9162 Vehicle in the amount of 40,000.**

The justification and details for use of the President's line-item veto is set forth below.

The Office of the President and Vice President ("OPVP") entered into a Agreement with Toyei Industries to grant \$100,000 for employment and other uses. As part of the arrangement, the OPVP was very clear that the OPVP would not support future funding. Toyei would need to be an active seeker of grant funding. This need request is contrary to the understanding with OPVP when the OPVP granted \$100,000 from its own budget.

Furthermore, I have also been informed by the Controller the Navajo Nation will face a large shortfall, this upcoming 2019 budget. As the President of the Navajo Nation, I must protect to the best of my ability future governmental operations and continued services to our People. Therefore, I must exercise my line-item veto authority.



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Russell Begaye, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE: March 4, 2018

SUBJECT: Resolution No. CF-21-18: RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, NABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FROM THE UNRESERVED, UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS (\$148,325.00) FOR PHOENIX INDIAN CENTER, BUSINESS UNIT NUMBER 119025

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. 1005 (C)(10), action for Resolution No. CF-21-18 is being submitted to the Navajo Nation Council, through the Office of the Speaker within the ten (10) days requirement. Furthermore, the Navajo Nation President has line item veto authority for budget items within the annual Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget or Supplemental Appropriations, which are not subject to override by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. 164 (A)(17).

After review of Resolution No. CF-21-18, I hereby exercise my line-veto to:

1. Section Three. Approving the Supplemental Appropriation from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance the amount of \$148,325.00 for Phoenix Indian Center, BU No. 119025.
2. EXHIBIT A. BUDGET FORM 1. Part III Budget Summary. 3500. 4000 Supplies (B) in the amount of 11,600; Lease and Rental (B) in the amount of 18,000; 5500

Communications and Utilities (B) in the amount of 300; 6500 Contractual Services (B) in the amount of 28,260; 7000 Special Transactions (B) in the amount of 1,500; 9500 Indirect Cost in the amount of 20,455.

- 3. EXHIBIT A. BUDGET FORM 4. 4000 Supplies in the amount of 11,600, 4120 General Office Supplies in the amount of 1,800, 4410 Operating Supplies in the amount of 9,800; 5110 Office Space in the amount of 18,000; 5570, 5500 Communications and Utilities 5600 Internet in the amount of 300; 6520, 6530 Fees in the amount of 28,280; 660, 5630 Audit in the amount of 2,500 and 3,300; 7710 Insurance Premiums in the amount of 1,500; 8020 Emergency Assistance in the amount of 23,750; 9710 Indirect Cost in the amount of 20,455.**

The justification and details for use of the President's line-item veto is set forth below.

The Office of the President and Vice President ("OPVP") fully supports the Phoenix Indian Center. The Center offers much support for our urban Navajos. As such I support an appropriation to the Center. However, I have also been informed by the Controller the Navajo Nation is facing a large and growing deficit, this upcoming 2019 budget. As the President of the Navajo Nation, I must protect to the best of my ability future governmental operations and continued services to our People. Therefore, I must exercise my line-item veto authority for some of the costs.