



The 22nd Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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Speaker Naize and the Navajo Nation Council Continue Work on Finalizing Amending Title II

Window Rock, AZ — During the weekend, Navajo Nation Council Speaker Johnny Naize spoke on the importance for the Navajo Nation Council to complete discussions on amending Title II and submit the draft language for adoption that would solidify the new structure for the Legislative Branch.

“I have heard growing concerns from the people that the restructuring of the Council is not moving fast enough,” said Speaker Naize at the Eastern Navajo Agency Council Meeting in Crownpoint, New Mexico on Saturday. “Building a new government can be complex, but I want to assure everyone that my colleagues and I are working hard to finish the job when the Council was reduced from 88 to 24 members.”

This week, the Council’s Title II Task Force was scheduled to meet in Leupp, Arizona to smooth out additional language that would establish the draft amendments for the four new standing committees, however, out of respect and honor of the passing of friend, colleague and former 21st Navajo Nation Council Delegate Tom LaPahe, that meeting was postponed.

Currently, the four new standing committees are assigned as subcommittees, which once amended are anticipated to strengthen the role of the larger Nabik’iyati’ Committee.

After the draft amendments are completed and are reviewed by the Office of Legislative Counsel, the Nabik’iyati’ Committee will finish deliberations before submitting the final language to the Navajo Nation Council during its spring session scheduled to begin on April 18, 2011.

The completion to the amending of Title II is also required by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court so to accommodate the reduction of the Council.

On Sunday, at an appreciation dinner for Council Delegate Lorenzo Bates, Speaker Naize repeated, “Please be patient and understanding for your Council Delegate if they haven’t been able to attend some of your local chapter meetings. The Council and I want to make sure we get these amendments right, with careful and thoughtful consideration, as we begin this new era of representing the people.”

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