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## President Shelly Responds to Obama's State of the Nation

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** –Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly responded to President Barack Obama's State of the Nation's address Tuesday night.

The following is President Shelly's statement regarding Obama's speech.

“This evening the President of the United States issued bold directives to his Administration. I applaud his efforts at reducing bureaucratic red tape and addressing inefficiencies within the federal government. The Navajo people appreciates Obama's message of unity.

“Native American Nations know all too well the bleak economic environment we've face. With unemployment numbers on the Navajo Nation consistently in the double digits I am glad to hear the plan to continue paving the way for American companies to invest in America. The rural areas like the Navajo Nation, and like many rural areas across this great country, are challenged in attracting and maintaining a manufacturing base. With so many jobs outsourced, our job of creating sustainable economies becomes nearly impossible. *The Blue Print for an America Built to Last* gives us a method to keep American jobs in America and to give First Americans the chance at those jobs.

“The President's plan to develop partnerships between community colleges and businesses to provide necessary training, I welcome that. I hope that this plan will be include the 27 tribal colleges, two of which are here on the Navajo Nation, so we can provide training to mobilize the Navajo workforce.

Lastly, I like President Obama's statement of clean energy development while utilizing and developing our existing natural resources in the most efficient and environmentally friendly ways possible. The Navajo Nation has been blessed with an abundance of natural resources and we call on the President to work with the Navajo Nation help us work at building an America and a Navajo Nation Built to Last.”

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