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## **Navajo President Shelly Outlines Negative Impacts if LCR Settlement Goes Unapproved**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly warns Navajo people about the potential negative impacts if the Navajo Council doesn't approve the Navajo-Hopi Little Colorado River Water Settlement.

“A vote against the settlement approves non-Navajo unrestricted use of the Little Colorado River and the Coconino aquifer. As leaders of this great Nation, we must consider the protections afforded to us through this settlement,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly's statement comes after the Naa'bik'iyati' Committee voted against legislation to approve the proposed water settlement last Friday.

Earlier last week, the Budget and Finance and the Resource Development Committees voted to table the same legislation.

Now the legislation, which is sponsored by Council Speaker Johnny Naize, moves forward to the Navajo Nation Council. The Council is scheduled to vote on the measure on Wednesday.

“I know water is sacred. I understand that this is a controversial issue. But it is much better for us to have a hand in the settlement than to let a state court dictate to us how much water we get. Water is life and we do need it now,” President Shelly said.

If approved, the LCR Settlement would give the Navajo Nation 160,000 acre feet of the river's surface water, unlimited access to the Coconino and Navajo Aquifers and place restrictions of new wells and development on the river and the aquifers.

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