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President Shelly Sends Letter to Navajo Council Urging Approval of NGS Lease

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly sent a letter to the Navajo Nation Council asking them to approve the Navajo Generating Station Lease Extension Amendments.

Amid rumors of Navajo Council possibly tabling legislation that would approve the NGS lease extension, President Shelly wrote the following letter:

“Honorable Council Delegates,

I strongly appeal the Navajo Nation Council to pass the Navajo Generating Station lease extension amendment. It is a well-negotiated lease agreement. The Navajo Nation laws and procedures were adhered to during the negotiations.

As President, I am delegated the authority to negotiate pursuant to my Powers and authority stated in Title Two of the Navajo Nation Code. Through that authority I appointed the NGS Negotiation Team. The Team negotiated a good solid agreement for the Navajo Nation. The current lease, including taxes is approximately \$3 Million a year. If the Council approves the lease renewal the Nation will receive \$43 Million a year, starting 2019.

We have been told by SRP there is little, if no room to renegotiate. They consider the major points of the agreement to be exhausted, such as jurisdiction and money. Because of mitigating circumstances the water concerns are unlikely to be resolved before the timeframe needed to finalize the lease extension.

The Navajo Nation Council’s authority pertains to approving or not approving the NGS lease extension amendment. Contemplation of furthering any negotiations would be detrimental to the Navajo Nation and the People who rely on Navajo Generation Station for their livelihood.

I appeal to you for your vote to pass this legislation.”

Navajo Council is expected to discuss the NGS lease extension today.