



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 10, 2014

## President Shelly executes line-item veto of Legislation No. CN-58-14



President Ben Shelly signs the line-item veto of Legislation No. CN-58-14. He said little has changed since he previously vetoed a bill to fund the tribal council's legislative district assistants, which was previously submitted for almost \$2 million. No budget was attached to the legislation for the administrative centers for the Navajo Division of Community Development. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.— On Dec. 10, President Shelly executed his line-item veto authority on Legislation No. CN-58-14, which was for more than \$1 million from the FY 2015 general funds budget.

According to the tribal council resolution, \$541,946 was for funding salaries of legislative district assistants and \$500,000 was for administrative service centers under the Navajo Division of Community Development.

On Sept. 15, President Shelly line-item vetoed the FY 2015

comprehensive budget because of Navajo Nation Council's concerns about salaries for politically appointed positions. The reasoning was that the money could best be used for direct services to the Navajo people.

At that time, almost \$2 million was earmarked for the legislative district assistants to cover salaries, travel expenses and communications costs in the FY 2015 budget. Because little has changed since that initial veto, the new legislation to fund those positions was vetoed again

by the president.

"Little has changed since my last veto and as such, I hereby exercise my line-item veto authority again," President Shelly said.

The president's decision to veto \$500,000 for the administrative service centers was rooted in the fact that there was no budget attached to the legislation. The funding requested was in support of the decentralization initiative, which was a directive from the Budget and Finance Committee on July 5, 2013.

The decentralization was

to transition from five Local Governance Support Centers at the agencies to 16 administrative support centers at the district level.

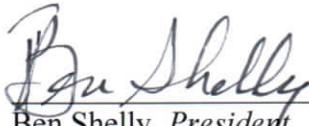
"No budget forms were attached. Additionally, the legislation does not indicate whether Council intends for unallocated general funds, supplemental funds or the excess indirect cost recovery funds to be used," President Shelly said. "For these reasons, I must line-item veto this \$500,000."

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable LoRenzo Bates, Speaker Pro Tem  
The 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council

FROM:   
Ben Shelly, *President*  
THE NAVAJO NATION

DATE: December 10, 2014

SUBJECT: **LINE-ITEM VETO OF LEGISLATION NO. CN-58-14: RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING CS-46-14 AND APPROVING FY2015 GENERAL FUNDS OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$541,946 FOR THE NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES/LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ASSISTANTS PROGRAM, BUSINESS UNIT #NEW; ADDING \$500,000 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTERS, BUSINESS UNIT NO. 108125**

Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005(C)(10), the above titled Legislation CN-58-14 is being submitted to the Navajo Nation Council, through the Office of the Speaker, within the ten (10) days requirement.

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).

**I hereby exercise my line-item veto authority by vetoing \$ 541,946 funding from the Unallocated General Fund Revenue for the Office of Legislative Services/Legislative District Assistants, Business Unit #New of CN-58-14.** On September 15, 2014, I line-item vetoed similar legislation relating to the Legislative District Assistants (LDAs) and am doing so again. During the fiscal 2015 budget process, Council Delegates stated that, in their opinion, there were too many politically appointed individuals working for the Nation. They stated and that the budget for those positions should be used for direct services. Following this logic I agreed and line-item vetoed the \$2 million approved for

the LDAs so it could be used for direct services for the Navajo People. Little has changed since my last veto and, as such, I hereby exercise my line-item veto authority again.

**I hereby exercise my line-item veto authority by vetoing \$ 500,000 for Administrative Service Centers, Division of Community Development, Business Unit No. 108125 of CN-58-14.** Legislation No. CN-58-14 states that \$ 500,000 is approved for Administrative Service Centers for the purpose of the Decentralization Initiative. It also states that the budget for the \$ 500,000 is attached as Exhibit B to Legislation No. CN-58-14. No such budget forms are attached. Additionally, Legislation No. CN-58-14 does not indicate whether the Council intends for unallocated general funds, supplemental funds or the excess indirect cost recovery funds to be used. For the above stated reasons, I must line-item veto this \$500,000.

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

22nd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2014

AN ACT

RELATING TO BUDGET AND FINANCE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI', AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING CS-46-14 AND APPROVING FY2015 GENERAL FUNDS OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF ~~\$541,946~~ FOR THE ~~NAVAJO NATION OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES/LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ASSISTANTS PROGRAM, BUSINESS UNIT #NEW~~ ADDING \$500,000 FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CENTERS, BUSINESS UNIT NO. 108125 *BS*

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A); and
- B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 301 (B)(2) the Budget and Finance Committee is authorized to recommend adoption of resolutions related to the expenditure of the Nation's financial resources; and
- C. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(9), a proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee before it is heard by the Navajo Nation Council; and
- D. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(5) the Naabik'íyáti' Committee shall serve as oversight for the Office of Legislative Services; and
- E. The Navajo Nation Council, by the will of the Navajo People, has been reduced in the number of delegates from 88 to 24 and, as a consequence, the Standing Committees of the Navajo Nation Council has been reduced from 12 Standing Committees to five (5) Standing Committees, thereby increasing the workload of all Council Delegates, see generally CO-45-12; and

F. As a result of the increased workload for Council Delegates the position of Legislative District Assistant was created to perform a wide range of professional legislative work of considerable difficulty in providing general support to Council Delegates and specifically addressing inquiries from, and serving as a liaison to, constituents; and

G. For the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY2015) the Legislative Branch is appropriating \$16,931,298 for its Operating Budget of which \$15,329,977 constitutes General Fund Revenue, see CS-46-14(C)(1); and

H. The President of the Navajo Nation, in exercising line item veto authority, vetoed \$1,769,803 from the Legislative Branch appropriation under the General Fund Revenue appropriation which funded the Office of Legislative Services/Legislative District Assistants Program, BU #New, see CS-46-14; and

I. Limited funding in FY2015 of \$541,946, from October 1, 2014 to January 14, 2015, for the Office of Legislative Services/Legislative District Assistants Program, BU #New, is necessary to complete the work for the 22nd Navajo Nation Council Delegates, see Program Budget Summary Forms attached as Exhibit A; and

J. The Navajo Nation hereby finds it is in the best interest of the Navajo People to approve this FY2015 General Fund Operating Budget request.

**SECTION 2. APPROVAL**

A. The Navajo Nation hereby amends CS-46-14 and approves the request ~~of \$541,946 funding from the Unallocated General Fund Revenue for the Office of Legislative Services/Legislative District Assistants, Business Unit #New,~~ <sup>BS</sup> fund personnel and non-personnel line items as demonstrated in the Program Budget Summary Forms. <sup>BS</sup>

<sup>BS</sup> B. The Navajo Nation hereby amends CS-46-14 and approves ~~\$500,000 for Administrative Service Centers, Division of Community Development, Business Unit No. 108125,~~ <sup>BS</sup> Budget Forms attached as Exhibit "B", for the purpose of Decentralization Initiative. <sup>BS</sup>

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 13 in favor and 5 opposed, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November 2014.



LoRenzo Bates, Pro Tem Speaker  
Navajo Nation Council

12-1-14

Date

Motion: Honorable Elmer P. Begay  
Second: Honorable Leonard Pete

**ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:**

1. I hereby sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(10), on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Shelly, President  
Navajo Nation

2. I hereby veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C)(11), this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2014, for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Shelly, President  
Navajo Nation

3. I hereby sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (10) and 2 N.N.C. §164 (A) (17), on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014. The justification of my line-item veto is set forth by memorandum.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Shelly, President  
Navajo Nation