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**THE ACT OF LINE ITEM VETOING THE FY 2017 COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET  
WAS TAKEN WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION**

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ-The act of line item vetoing the FY 2017 Comprehensive Navajo Nation Budget occurred within the territorial jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation at the Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP) on Saturday, Sep. 24, 2016.

The FY 2017 budget was dated on the day of delivery to the Office of the Speaker on Tuesday, Sep. 27.

In a memorandum from Navajo Nation Council Speaker LoRenzo Bates to Navajo Nation Controller Jim Parris regarding the passing of the FY 2017 Comprehensive Budget, Speaker Bates incorrectly states that the action was taken outside of the boundaries of the Navajo Nation.

In the memo, Speaker Bates directs Parris to “carry out all aspects of the Fiscal Year 2017 Comprehensive Budget as passed by the Navajo Nation Council discounting the appropriations and Conditions of Appropriation that were improperly vetoed.”

“The Navajo Nation Council is continuing to negate the will of the people when it was the Navajo people that gave the president the line item veto authority,” President Begaye said. “Raising the issue that this particular action was taken outside of Navajo Nation jurisdiction is both frivolous and a further attempt by council to negate the will of the people.”

The council has a history of challenging the president’s line item veto authority. Earlier this year, the council attempted to rescind the President’s line item veto authority but it wasn’t overridden.

Notice of Speaker Bates’ memo to Controller Parris had gone out to the media before a copy was ever delivered to OPVP.

“By leaking the memo to the media before delivering a copy to OPVP, Speaker Bates and the Navajo Nation Council are being underhanded,” President Begaye said.

The president noted that this action is indicative of how council does not want to work together with OPVP.

“Our goal at OPVP is always to be transparent in all that we do,” he said. “By using my line item veto authority, I am protecting the people’s money so it won’t be misused nor appropriated improperly and illegally.”

President Begaye and Vice President Nez stated that they will always listen to and protect the voice of the people.

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