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## PRESIDENT BEGAYE SIGNS LEGISLATION TO APPROVE REVISIONS FOR NHA COMMISSIONERS

WINDOW ROCK—Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye signed Resolution No. CJA-13-17 on Feb. 10 to amend Title 6, Navajo Nation Code (N.N.C.) §§ 605,606 and 618 regarding the qualification criteria for the Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) Board of Commissioners.

Beyond amending qualification criteria, this legislation also reduced the number of board members from eight to five.

Criteria for the board was also revised to include a nominations committee comprised of the Navajo Nation President, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, Resources and Development Committee designee, and confirmed by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

"Out of the five commissioners, none should be a former commissioner of NHA or a member of the Navajo Nation Council within the past three years, we need this to protect the integrity of the board and to ensure that there is no conflict of interest," said President Begaye.

Two commissioners will represent the tenants and homebuyers participating in the programs.

"We highly support and commend the commissioners that will represent the tenants and homebuyers," President Begaye.

The Navajo Nation receives roughly \$80-90 million annually for housing. The Office of the President and Vice President felt the need to raise the level of expertise among the commissioners to ensure fiscal responsibility and properly address the housing needs of the people.

"Housing is a critical need on the Navajo Nation. We are excited to have the level of expertise from each commissioner to the housing needs from each area," said President Begaye.

The change to the code will require commissioners to have a minimum of post high school education and employment experience in at least one of the areas of business operations, architecture, construction management, finance, accounting, investing, or in other specialized areas of construction or business that correspond to the activities or anticipated activities of the authority. They will also need to have at least three years of management or leadership experience in business, tribal or federal housing.

"We are spending these funds, but more needs to be spent to ensure the funds aren't taken back by the grantees. Other tribes are looking at our allocations and asking members of congress to transfer the funds to their communities," said President Begaye. "This is a daunting task for the commissioners, but I believe these revisions will greatly benefit our Nation and future generations."

"The role of leadership is to bring vision and have professional experience, along with leadership, they give a clear direction on achieving the vision. I thank President Begaye for his understanding and support the notion that change is progress," said Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd

The Office of the President and Vice President would like to thank Council Delegate Shepherd for sponsoring this legislation. This committee also revised the code to require NHA to provide quarterly reports to the Office of the President and Vice President. This legislation will go into effect 120 days after Feb. 10, 2017.

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