



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2019

President Nez and Vice President Lizer thank Honorable Nelson S. BeGaye for his service to the Navajo Nation

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer offer their heartfelt appreciation and well wishes to Honorable Nelson S. BeGaye, who announced his resignation as a member of the Navajo Nation Council on Monday, following 16 years of public service due to recent health issues. As a member of the Council, he represented the communities of Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, and Tsé Ch'izhi at the time of his resignation.

Honorable BeGaye stood before his Council colleagues on the floor of the Council Chamber during the opening day of the Summer Session, to make the official announcement. He thanked his communities and colleagues for their many years of support.

“On behalf of the entire Nez-Lizer Administration, we thank Honorable Nelson BeGaye and we wish him the very best. It was a tremendous honor to serve alongside him for many years. He is a great leader for his communities and our entire Nation. We will keep him, his wife, and his children in our thoughts and prayers,” said President Nez.

BeGaye is originally from the community of Tsaile/Wheatfields, Arizona. He began his public service as a member of the 20th Navajo Nation Council in 2003, since then he served on several



PHOTO: Honorable Nelson S. BeGaye at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. on July 15, 2019.

committees including the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, and the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee among others.

President Nez served alongside Delegate BeGaye on the Council for over eight years, and as colleagues on the Council's Budget and Finance Committee. Delegate BeGaye was an instrumental part of several major achievements for the Navajo Nation including the San Juan River Water Settlement Act in 2010. In 2016, he was the vice chair of the Síhasin Fund Subcommittee, which developed a \$180 million comprehensive water infrastructure expenditure plan that represented the largest investment in water projects by the Nation in recent history.

"Mr. BeGaye is a great person, both professionally and as a family man. As I've come to know Delegate BeGaye, he has always been very passionate, articulate, and gracious in his leadership and service to his communities and the Navajo Nation. His presence on the Council floor will be missed, but his legacy and contributions to the Navajo people will live on forever," stated Vice President Lizer.

The Navajo Election Administration is expected to declare a vacancy for his position followed by the selection of an interim replacement, until a special election is held.

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