



CONTACT: Charmaine Jackson
Communications Director
Office: (928) 871-7884
Cell: (928) 637-5507
charmainejackson@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
April 27, 2011

Statement by President Shelly Regarding Commercial Tobacco Free Executive Order

“I strongly support protecting Navajo Nation employees and tribal members from exposure to commercial tobacco in the workplace and public places located on the Navajo Nation. I signed an executive order yesterday to protect the health, wellness, and welfare of the Navajo people.

The intent of the executive order is similar to the 2008 Commercial Tobacco Free Act, which passed the 21st Navajo Nation Council and was later vetoed by former President Joe Shirley, Jr. With this executive order, we will create a safer, commercial tobacco free work place for our Navajo people. This law does not does not restrict the fundamental traditional ceremony use of tobacco.

I plan to pursue legislation and bring the executive office and the appropriate divisions together along with grassroots organizations to create commercial tobacco free legislation to present at the Navajo Nation during its regular summer session.

Hashanee’ is a traditional Navajo concept I use often to express the love and respect I have for the people. As leaders we must create safer environments for our people. The prevention of commercial tobacco use is very important to the Shelly-Jim Administration. We do not want to expose our Navajo people to further unnecessary, health-related illnesses that can be caused by second-hand smoke.”

The executive order will not be formally enacted until it is signed and attested by the Navajo Nation Attorney General’s Office.

###