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The Shelly-Jim Administration Applauds Historic Launch of the Navajo Chamber of Commerce *Proclaims June 24, 2011 as 'Navajo Chamber of Commerce Day'*

Window Rock, AZ—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim have proclaimed today 'Navajo Chamber of Commerce Day' and issued the following statements in support of the first-ever Navajo Chamber of Commerce. The idea to develop a Chamber was announced by Navajo businessmen and women attending President Shelly's Business Leaders Roundtable back in April 2011.

"Small businesses are the backbone of any economy," said President Shelly. "For too long Navajo companies and businessmen and women have struggled to survive without general support for private businesses. At the roundtable, I said we will work for you and I meant it. We are committed to supporting the Navajo Chamber of Commerce. Their business expertise will be important in changing the policies and laws that will result in increasing the number of successful small businesses on the reservation."

"Lifting our people out of poverty means providing jobs and economic development, a main priority of the Shelly-Jim Administration and the Navajo Chamber of Commerce can help us reach those goals," stated Vice President Jim. "I would like to see the Navajo Arts and Crafts Enterprise open stores and do business in Rome, Paris and New York, selling our Navajo jewelry and products. Can you imagine if people could buy Navajo jewelry in Rome, that's what we should strive for."

Navajo Chamber of Commerce Steering Committee Member Cal Nez concluded, "We are excited President Shelly and Vice President Jim supports the Navajo Chamber of Commerce in realizing a new and exciting time in our history. As Navajo business owners we will help guide policy and work toward building a strong private sector on the Navajo reservation."

Full text of the Proclamation can be found below:



(L to R) Navajo Nation Chamber of Commerce Steering Committee members: Asa Begay, Jessica Stago, Yolanda Francisco-Nez of the Native American Women's Book Club, Cal Nez, Pete Nez Jr. and Jennifer Gillson witness Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim sign the "Navajo Chamber of Commerce Day' Proclamation.

NAVAJO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAY

JUNE 24, 2011

WHEREAS, The Navajo business community is a growing sector within the Navajo Nation and around the country, and this entrepreneurial spirit is the very fiber that will allow us to grow, prosper and succeed; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Chamber of Commerce is a private, nonprofit, member-supported organization with an Executive Committee, Board of Directors, entrepreneurs, and business owners with Articles of Incorporation, and by-laws; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Chamber of Commerce will provide a viable platform for networking, advocacy, and business education to promote Navajo businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Chamber of Commerce is independent of the Navajo Nation Government, Federal, State, County, and local governments, however, the Chamber of Commerce can work with the Navajo Government to promote business opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the world, many Navajo people demonstrate the spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship, and individual initiative and are motivated by self-sustaining and self-reliant practices that lead to financially independent lives; and

WHEREAS, Bringing together small businesses, and empowering Navajo people to establish businesses, sole-proprietorships, and other corporate entities is the best means of facilitating the economic prosperity of the Navajo People.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED, Friday, June 24, 2011, is NAVAJO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAY.

SIGNED AT THE CAPITOL THIS 24th DAY OF JUNE 2011

Witness By Our Hands & The Great Seal Of The Navajo Nation

Ben Shelly, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

Rex Lee Jim, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION

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