



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT
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PRESIDENT SHELLY ADVOCATES TO PROTECT NAVAJO PROGRAMS FROM BUDGET CUTS ON CAPITOL HILL

Presents Navajo Nation's FY 2013 Budget

Washington, D.C.—President Ben Shelly and the Navajo Nation Washington Office met with representatives of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-HI) to garner support and protect Navajo programs from current budgets cuts.

For two days, President Shelly and the Washington Office have been working at the forefront, pushing the federal government to ‘hold harmless’ any potential appropriation cuts to the Navajo Nation and all Native American tribes.

“I am here today fighting for our treaty rights and advocate to discontinue funding cuts by the federal government in Navajoland and Native America,” said President Shelly. “We need Congress to ‘hold tribes harmless’ from current budget cuts for 2011 and 2012.”

Since FY2011 started last year, the federal government has been functioning under a series of continuing resolutions. They are funded at FY2010 levels until March 4, 2011, which is about \$40 billion below the amount requested by the Obama Administration. A new continuing resolution was signed until March 18, 2011.

The most recent short-term continuing resolution includes \$4 billion of cuts, which opposes inclusion of Section 117 of the Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, severely impacting funding for Navajo Technical College.

At these meetings, President Shelly and the Navajo Nation Washington Office petitioned for Navajo Technical College funding to be put back into the budget.

During his presentation at the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ (BIA) national budget meeting yesterday, President Shelly introduced the Navajo Nation’s fiscal year 2013 budget, prioritizing economic and infrastructure development, public safety and education.

The proposed budget request includes additional increases for the following programs: \$2.7 million for the Housing Improvement Program, \$47.8 million for law enforcement to hire 20 more police officers and \$25 million for 14,000 student scholarships.

“We are continuing to build upon our solid foundation of infrastructure for job development to support our families, higher education and public safety plans,” President Shelly explained to the BIA’s Tribal-Interior Budget Council. “I believe the federal government should work with tribes to explore the possibility of moving out of a discretionary funds allocation system from the BIA into a mandatory one, to eliminate the funding uncertainties tribes face every year.”