



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

For Immediate Release  
May 25, 2011

## President Shelly Declares May 31<sup>st</sup> as ‘Navajo Nation Commercial Tobacco-Free Day’

**Dennehotso, AZ**—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly announced today that he has issued a proclamation declaring Tuesday, May 31, 2011 as ‘Navajo Nation Commercial Tobacco-Free Day’ in recognition of the World Health Organization’s ‘World No Tobacco Day.’ This proclamation does not restrict the fundamental traditional ceremony use of tobacco.

“We challenge everyone to quit smoking or stop using any form of commercial tobacco on the Navajo Nation,” said President Shelly. “Vice President Jim and I are committed to protecting the well-being of our Navajo people from commercial tobacco and harmful second hand smoke. We want to encourage our people to choose to work and live in a healthy physical environment, free from abuse of commercial tobacco. Based on scientific studies there is no available adequate ventilation technology that ensures the protection and prevention of exposure to secondhand smoke.”

The full text of the proclamation is listed below.

Navajo Nation Commercial Tobacco-Free Day on May 31, 2011  
*In Recognition of the World Health Organization’s “World No Tobacco Day”*

**Whereas**, commercial tobacco is harmful to the sacred elements of air and earth; and

**Whereas**, the use of commercial tobacco by our people harms our environment resulting in disharmony with the body and the earth; and

**Whereas**, each year approximately 440,000 people in the United States die of illness attributed to smoking; and

**Whereas**, secondhand smoke has been classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Group A carcinogen; and

**Whereas**, an estimated 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 46,000 heart disease deaths occur annually among adult non-smokers in the United States and 202,300 episodes of childhood asthma occur annually as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke; and

**Whereas**, there are no safe levels of secondhand smoke and no available adequate ventilation technology based upon scientific studies that can ensure the protection and prevention of exposure to secondhand smoke and its health related illnesses; and

**Whereas**, our people should be respected, honored, and protected with a healthy physical and mental environment, free from abuse of commercial tobacco.

**Therefore**, I Ben Shelly, the President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, May 31, 2011, as 'Navajo Nation Commercial Tobacco-Free Day' in recognition of the World Health Organization's 'World No Tobacco Day.'

**Now, Therefore, Let it be proclaimed** May 31, 2011 the Navajo Nation will observe this day as "NAVAJO NATION COMMERCIAL TOBACCO-FREE DAY"

ATTEST:

SIGNED AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2011.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL OF THE NAVAJO NATION.

BEN SHELLY, PRESIDENT  
THE NAVAJO NATION

###