



JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
President

FRANK J. DAYISH, JR.
Vice-President

THE NAVAJO NATION

For Immediate Release
Nov. 6, 2005

Contact: George Hardeen
Communications Director
Office – 928-871-7917
Cell – 928-309-8532
georgehardeen@opvp.org

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., vetoes Fairness in Appropriation Act, calling it unjustified, unfair

Signs KTNN loan conversion legislation of \$151,000 into law

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Calling it arbitrary and lacking justification, Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., on Friday vetoed the so-called Fairness in Appropriations Act of 2005, Resolution No. CO-64-05.

The law would have taken approximately seven percent of the annual general fund base allocation from the Navajo Nation Executive Branch in order to increase the allocation of the Judicial Branch by four percent and the Legislative Branch by three percent.

“Nowhere in the legislation is there a rational justification for the proposed percentages,” the President wrote in a veto message to Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan. “In fact, the legislation fails to contain sufficient information about precisely what services are lacking in the Judicial and Legislative Branches.”

The President said the legislation does not address the overall effect it would have on the delivery of services by the Executive Branch, virtually all of the tribe’s Divisions, departments and programs.

“The budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2006 was not enough to begin with,” the President said upon vetoing the bill. “We had the hardest time. We didn’t get as much revenue for this year as we did for FY 05.”

Implementing such a law, he said, would drastically affect and detrimentally impair Executive Branch programs, such as elder services, scholarships, public safety and others.

“There’s nothing fair about the appropriation formula as legislated,” he said.

To fairly justify taking any funding from one branch to give to the others, the President recommended that detailed information be provided first about where services are lacking in the Judicial and Legislative branches and the amount of money currently need.

In other action, the President signed into law a bill to convert a loan to KTNN of \$151,107 into a grant.

###