

FROM THE NAVAJO NATION
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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NAVAJO PRESIDENT JOE SHIRLEY, JR., TO SIGN HISTORIC
BENNETT FREEZE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMPACT LEGISLATION

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., will sign the historic Bennett Freeze Intergovernmental Compact legislation on Friday.

The signing will take place at his office at 9:30 a.m. The press is invited.

The legislation was passed by the Navajo Nation Council by a 75-to-3 vote on Tuesday. The Compact now goes to the Hopi Tribal Council and Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne for their approval and on to the U.S. District Court in Phoenix.

The President has invited Navajo Nation Council delegates to witness this moment in Navajo history.

³The people of the Bennett Freeze Area have waited 40 years for the Freeze to be lifted,² the President said. ³This land should never have been frozen in the first place. It didn't benefit anyone. We have lost countless elderly whose lives were needlessly made more difficult by this Freeze through no fault of their own. And we've lost countless youth who were forced away from their homes because of a lack of opportunity. Now, at last, we see the day coming that this Freeze will become a relic of history and development can pick up where it left off on July 8, 1966.²

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