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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council Approves \$7.3 million for Summer Youth  
Employment during the Council Special Session**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council approved \$7.3 million for Navajo Nation Summer Youth Employment during the council Special Session held on Tuesday, July 3, at the Diné Education Center.

Funding for the youth was the only item on the agenda; the bill was sponsored by Delegate Young Jeff Tom (Mariano Lake/Smith Lake)

The Undesignated, Unreserved Fund has \$18 million, and he wanted to use \$3 million for youth employment, Tom said.

The Fort Defiance Caucus unanimously supports asking for \$800,000 for the chapter's youth department, said Council delegate Harold Wauneka (Fort Defiance).

Delegate Orlanda Smith-Hodge (Cornfields/Klagetoh/Greasewood/Wide Ruins) added a funding amendment totaling \$2.6 million for various departments, including financial assistance funds for the Office of the Speaker and Office of the President. In this case, each delegate would be allowed \$15,000 in financial assistance funds.

After Smith-Hodge's amendment passed, council delegate Sampson Begay (Jeddito/Steamboat/Low Mountain) asked for \$150,000 for consultants for both the Public Safety and Transportation and Community Development committees. The consultants would be used to seek federal funding for ongoing projects, Begay noted.

"I support this, because I think it is an emergency," said Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Lupton/Houck/Nahata Dziil)

Begay's amendment was approved 52-28.

Some amendments made to the legislation include \$800,00 to the tribal motor vehicle department that was presented by council delegate Erin M. Keeswood Sr. (Tse Daa K'aan), Keeswood's amendment passed by a 51-28 margin.

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All the amendments passed.

Although the special session was held at the Diné Education Center because of renovations ongoing at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber the council chamber is scheduled for use by July 16, the opening day of the summer session, said Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale).