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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan Encourages Klagetoh Evacuated Families

KLAGETOH, Ariz. – Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) encouraged the Klagetoh and Wide Ruins evacuated family members to keep positive thoughts about their own personal struggle to overcome the hardship resulting from the recent Klagetoh fire during his visit to the Klagetoh Chapter House on Friday, July 6.

“It’ll take a while for the terrain and surrounding to heal from the fire,” Speaker Morgan said. “That balance will return to the land and environment eventually especially when something like this traumatic and devastating happens.”

Speaker Morgan told the Klagetoh community members and families in the Navajo language that, “Always remember the teachings of our elders told us that when something such as this situation occurs – it is a natural cleansing process.”

“Believe that the most positive growth will happen again in our communities,” Speaker Morgan said.

Speaker Morgan took time out of his busy work schedule to illustrate his overwhelming concern for the evacuated community members. To show his compassion for the evacuated community members, he gifted the evacuates with food, water, toiletries and laundry supplies.

Speaker observed the devastation that the Klagetoh fire consumed a large area of the land.

The fire was located in the Klagetoh-Bitahochee-Whitecone, Ariz.-area along the TransNational pipeline, according to the Navajo Department of Transportation.

The fire was reported at 11:30 a.m. July 3, 2007, and was confirmed at 12:15 p.m.

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The fire burned 2,780 acres.

The Incident Command Post was organized at the Klagetoh Chapter House, and evacuation was imminent, according to the Navajo Department of Emergency Management.

Fire markers were located at milepost 4.6 miles and milepost 21.

More than 50 residents were evacuated to the local chapter house, and all our Navajo people were reported safe.

Type 1 firefighters known as "Hot Shots," hailed from different cities such as Redding, Calif.; Prescott, Ariz. Murdock, Calif. and Diamondback, Utah to fight the Klagetoh fire. A Type 1 firefighter is part of a solidified, trained team of firefighters that is completely self-sufficient.

Type 2 firefighters included four Navajo crews, two Zuni crew and one northern crew. The Type 2 firefighter is reliant on the National Pool Funding, and the firefighter team members are trained, but randomly assigned to fire work sites.