

Navajo Nation Council Office of the Speaker
Contact: Sararesa Begay, Public Information Officer
(928) 871-6384
sararesabegay@navajo.org
<http://www.navajonationcouncil.org>

March 1, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Navajo Judiciary Committee Chairperson wants to establish a permanent court facility for the Utah Navajo District Court

SALT LAKE CITY - Kee Allen Begay Jr., Navajo Nation Judiciary Committee Chairperson, told Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. last Wednesday, Feb. 21 during the one-day Utah Indian Caucus day during a meeting that there is a great need for court service for the Utah portion of the Navajo Nation, and the court facility will be located in the Aneth, Utah-area that will covers the northern part of the Navajo Nation.

Begay told Gov. Huntsman that the Judiciary Committee is asking the Governor for his full support and that the Navajo Judiciary Committee is in the process of requesting for an appropriation from the Utah State Legislature for the Aneth court facility in the amount of \$2.2 million.

Begay also expressed that the benefits of the establishment of a court facility for the northern Navajo community will have are access to justice and other benefits such as:

- Life, Health and Safety Issues.
- Legal Mandates.
- Protection of Property and Assets.
- Economic Development Initiatives.

-more-

Page 2-2-2/Begay/Utah Navajo District Court

“I really want Navajos and non-Navajos to have availability of court service within this region,” Begay said, adding that he and the committee members are making dynamic efforts to improve courts. “I believe there were some positive responses from the Utah State Officials and from the Governor’s office that establishing a court facility on the Utah portion of the Navajo Nation will be a good investment for the citizens of Utah.”

Begay who represents the Many Farms and Round Rock Chapters as a council said, “Our ultimate goal is to ensure all of our citizens and our neighbors have access to justice.”