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May 1, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chinle Public Safety benefits from Emergency Legislation

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Council delegate Raymond Joe (Whippoorwill/Tachee/Blue Gap) said he is delighted to know that Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. signed a Spring Session 2007 \$10 million emergency legislation Monday afternoon, April 30.

The emergency legislation allows \$748,932 to be allocated to the Division of Public Safety for a new modular building in Chinle from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund.

Joe, a first-time delegate, said he is highlighting the funding for the new building for the Chinle Agency community because the Navajo Nation is experiencing a public safety crisis due to the recent closing of the Chinle public safety facility during mid-April.

“The legislation is very important to the Chinle Agency because the emergency response call center and public safety facility are in jeopardy,” Joe said, noting that the Chinle Agency Council Delegate organized a special meeting during April 13-14 to address the shut down of the Chinle public safety facility. “During the special meeting, that’s when we actually absorbed it, and put the legislation together.”

Joe said that he wants to acknowledge the contribution from the 14-member Chinle Agency. He wants to give accolades to his fellow delegates such as Andy R. Ayze (Chinle); (Kee Allen Begay Jr (Many Farms/Round Rock).; Nelson Begay (Lukachukai/Tsaile-Wheatfields); Harry Clark; Harry Claw (Chinle); Lorenzo Bedonie (Hardrock/Pinon); Nelson Gorman (Chinle); Amos F. Johnson (Black Mesa/Forest Lake/Rough Rock); Tom Lapahe (Tachee/Blue Gap/Whippoorwill); Preston McCabe (Hardrock/Pinon); Johnny Naize (Tselani/Cottonwood/Nazlini); Leonard Teller (Lukachukai/Tsaile-Wheatfields) and Elbert Wheeler (Many Farms/Round Rock).

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Additionally, Joe wants to recognize the 21st Navajo Nation Council for their support and the Navajo Nation President's Office specifically Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr.

"We recognized the critical importance of this," said council delegate Johnson who is a strong supporter of the public safety funding. "We asked Mr. Joe to introduce the legislation."

The legislation that is for \$10,327,484 allows a number of projects and departments to receive funding. The listing of funding includes: \$20,000 to the Division of Public Safety, Department of High Safety for travel expenses; \$50,000 to the Education Committee to retain a federal lobbyist to focus on the formulation and lobbyist of the Navajo Nation's recommendation to the No child Left Behind Act, which is scheduled for reauthorization during 2007; \$2 million to the Diné Power Authority; \$200,000 for renovation of the historic Navajo Nation Council Chamber; \$915,976 to the Native Broadcast Enterprise to preserve and cultivate the Navajo language throughout the continental U.S.; \$2,185,000 for the Office of the Speaker for constituent needs, the Office of the President constituent services in the five agencies; \$457,556 for the Annual Fixed Cost Audit and \$3,000,000 for the PEP program which is a public works program at the chapter house level.

"Based on this legislation, everyone benefits," Joe said. "From the veterans, the education committee, the chapter houses, Native Broadcast Enterprise and etcetera."