January 11, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan announces the winter session agenda

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) announces that the 21st Navajo Nation Council will convene for its Winter Session at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 28, 2007 at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. The session is scheduled from Jan. 28 through Feb. 1.

During the session, the Council will review a number of legislation and take action on these proposals. The Council will also receive the State of the Nation address from Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr.

In addition, the Council will receive written reports from Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Regional Director, the Chief Justice of the Navajo Nation, the Standing Committees, the Boards and Commissions, and from the Area Director of Indian Health Services.

An oral report will also be given by the Honorable U.S. Congressman Rick Renzi (R-AZ) who represents Congressional District 1, his report will be in regards to congressional actions that will affect the Navajo Nation and the Navajo people.

Another report will be given by Mr. Steve Owens, Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) on issues related to climate changes and collaborations between the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency and the ADEQ.

Some highlights of the Winter Session agenda includes Legislation No. 0853-07, which relates to community development and finance and will amend the Navajo Nation 2008 fiscal year budget by approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of $22,304,555 to the Division of Community Development from the Unreserved-Undesignated Fund balance for Navajo Nation Capital Improvement Project shortfalls. This legislation is sponsored by Omer Begay, Jr. (Cornfields/Greasewood Springs/Klagetoh/Wide Ruins), Leslie Dele (Tonalea), Harriett K. Becenti (Manuelito/Rock Springs/Tseyatoh), and Norman John II (Twin Lakes).

Legislation No. 0672-07 is sponsored by Phil Harrison (Red Valley/Cove), which relates to education, community development and finance. This legislation will amend the Navajo Nation 2008 fiscal year budget by approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of $5.7 million as a grant to the Red Mesa Unified School District from the Undesignated-Unreserved Fund balance for the construction of capital improvement projects for the use of students in the Red Mesa Unified School District.

Legislation No. 0829-07 is sponsored by Rex Lee Jim (Rock Point) and relates to public safety, community development, and finance. This legislation will amend the Navajo Nation 2008 fiscal year budget by approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of
$550,000 to the Division of Public Safety and the Department of Law Enforcement for the Shiprock District in order to purchase a heavy duty mobile command unit.

Legislation No. 0748-07 is sponsored by Tim Goodluck (Houck/Lupton/Nahata Dziil) and it relates to education and finance to amend the Navajo Nation 2008 fiscal year budget by approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of $85,000 as a grant to the Intermountain School from the Unreserved-Undesignated Fund balance for the construction of a monument dedicated to all Navajo students who attended the Intermountain School from 1950 to 1984.

Legislation No. 0882-07 is sponsored by Ernest D. Yazzie, Jr. (Baahaali/Church Rock) and is an act relating to economic development and public safety, which will amend Title 17 of the N.N.C. §412 to authorize and permit the transportation, sale, delivery, and consumption of alcoholic beverages within the Navajo Nation at a duly authorized Navajo casino.

Legislation No. 0780-07 is sponsored by Willie Tracey, Jr. (Ganado/Kinlichee) and relates to ethics and rules to require quarterly reports from the two leaders of the Navajo Nation, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and from the Navajo Nation President. The Council will also confirm the appointment of Quincy L. Natay to serve a three-year term as a board member to the Board of Directors for the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise.

The Council will also be presented with legislation to change the names of two chapters. It is being proposed to change the name of Sweetwater Chapter to Tólikan Chapter and to change Kaibeto Chapter to K’ai’bii’to. The legislation is sponsored by Kee Yazzie Mann (Kaibeto).

A full copy of the 2008 Winter Session agenda is available on the Office of the Speaker’s website at www.navajonationcouncil.org.

For more information, contact Joshua Lavar Butler with the Office of the Speaker at 928-871-7160.

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