



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2013

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160
nlnb.communications@gmail.com

**Speaker Naize signs several key legislations including
the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013 and amendments to NTEC**



Photo: Back row is Council Delegate Joshua Lavar Butler, Council Delegate George Apachito, and Council Delegate Charles Damon II. Front sitting is Council Delegate Mel Begay, Speaker Johnny Naize, and Council Delegate Roscoe Smith.

WINDOW ROCK – On Thursday afternoon, in the presence of dozens of legislative staff, media reporters, and spectators, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) signed and certified several significant legislations recently passed by the Navajo Nation Council.

During the signing ceremony, Speaker Naize addressed the passage of the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013, and expressed appreciation to members of the Resources and Development Committee for their active roles in developing the policy.

“It serves as guidance — a reference for bringing energy development to our Nation,” said Speaker Naize.

Also speaking at the ceremony was Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill), who sponsored the Navajo Energy Policy of 2013.

“This is a major initiative in which the Navajo Nation has entered, one is to develop a format that allows the Navajo Nation to engage in its own resources,” said Delegate Smith.

Speaker Naize also signed two separate legislations concerning the Nation’s possible acquisition of the BHP Navajo Mine, including authorizing \$4.1 million for the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC for costs associated with the acquisition of the mine, and another legislation that amends the initial enabling resolution that established NTEC.

“As a leader of this Nation, we have to be very careful about how we manage our resources, in particular coal,” Speaker Naize said. “At the same time, the signing of the NTEC legislation does allow setting aside 10 percent of its profit for renewable energy so the Navajo Nation doesn’t concentrate only on burning coal, but we also look at renewable energy — solar, wind, and so forth.”

Council Delegate Mel Begay (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl’a’a’), who served as Speaker Pro Tem during several discussions and votes over the course of the Council’s Fall Session, extended his appreciation to his fellow Council colleagues for approving the NTEC legislations.

“I certainly want to express my appreciation to the Council for giving their support for the Nation to progress ahead and move forward to identify itself through its utilities and also through mineral development in an effort to bring prosperity to the Nation,” said Delegate Begay.

Also included in the signing ceremony, were the Navajo Housing Authority Reform Act of 2013 and an enabling legislation that authorizes the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission to implement and manage a 911 emergency response system for the Nation.

Immediately following the signing ceremony, the legislations were sent to President Ben Shelly’s office for his signature.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org