



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Speaker Bates provides written report to the Navajo Nation Council

WINDOW ROCK – On the opening day of the 2018 Fall Council Session, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) provided a written report to his colleagues on the 23rd Navajo Nation Council focusing on recent achievements and ongoing challenges.

In his report, Speaker Bates paid tribute to the work of the late Steven Begay, former Council member who represented the communities of Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, and Bahastl'a'a', by highlighting the recent replacement of 19 homes in the Naschitti community that were destroyed in the 2014 Asaayi Lake Fire. As a member of the Council, Delegate Begay sponsored legislation that provided over \$764,000 to the Naschitti Community Governance to aid in the replacement of the homes.

“If you recall, many times on the Council floor Honorable Steven Begay strongly advocated for the funding of these homes and stated several times that the replacement of these homes was the reason he decided to seek a position on the Navajo Nation Council. He was persistent about securing the funding,” stated Speaker Bates. “He was a true advocate and leader for his people and we will always be thankful to him.”

Speaker Bates also called on Arizona voters once again, to join the Navajo Nation in voting “no” on Proposition 127 in the upcoming general election on Nov. 6. Proposition 127 proposes to require utility companies to obtain 50-percent of their electricity from renewable resources by the year 2030.

“While the Navajo Nation does support renewable energy development, the Navajo Nation does not support the way in which Proposition 127 would impose requirements and infringe on the sovereign status of tribes throughout the state. If passed, the measure would negatively impact utility costs, employment, revenue, and other factors for all Arizona citizens, including members of the Navajo Nation,” Speaker Bates stated.

Another portion of the report focused on the successful partnership of the Office of the Speaker and New Mexico agencies to bring services to the Navajo Nation to allow Navajo elders to obtain delayed birth certificates, driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, Driver Authorization Cards, and other documents that comply with the federal REAL ID Act.

Beginning in July, the Office of the Speaker in coordination with the Navajo Office of Vital Records and various New Mexico agencies held a series of public outreach events in the communities of Crownpoint, Window Rock, and Shiprock.

“Data from the outreach events show that at least 285 Navajo individuals successfully obtained delayed birth certificates, 7 obtained Driving Authorization Cards, and 17 obtained REAL ID’s,” stated Speaker Bates, who also thanked all of the entities involved in the planning and implementation of the outreach events.

Other issues covered in Speaker’s report include the recent expansion of the Kayenta Solar Facility, the Nation’s FY2019 Comprehensive Budget, Navajo Generating Station, the Twin Arrows Travel Center, and the status of the Navajo BIA director position.

To view the full report from Speaker Bates, please visit the Navajo Nation Council’s website at www.navajonationcouncil.org.

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