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President Shelly Line Item Vetoes \$2.5 Million Bill for Summer Youth Employment

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly line item vetoed a bill that would've provided \$2.5 million for Chapter Summer Youth Employment programs. He vetoed the measure Friday morning.

President Shelly stated three primary reasons he line item vetoed the CJY-4213. Firstly, President Shelly stated the Undesignated Unreserved Fund Balance already below the amount he has been advocating for, he needs a more thorough evaluation of chapter level finances and that he intends to find solutions within the government to help expand resources for chapters who do need extra financial help for summer youth workers.

"The majority of chapters have a high amount of unspent money within their budgets. I am aware of a few chapters that are in need of additional funding for their summer youth employment accounts," President Shelly wrote.

President Shelly added that he plans to meet with the Division of Community Development, Local Governance Support Center and other chapter programs to discuss long-term solutions to fund summer youth employment.

In addition, President Shelly said the UUFB is below the \$20 million he has been advocating as a minimum balance above the mandatory minimum fund balance of 10 percent of the prior year's fiscal budget.

After about \$16.8 million of allocations since the spring, the UUFB sits at about \$9.5 million, though President Shelly indicated that the allocations were for necessary projects, federal financial uncertainty hasn't gone away.

"The financial uncertainty still looms over us," President Shelly wrote.

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