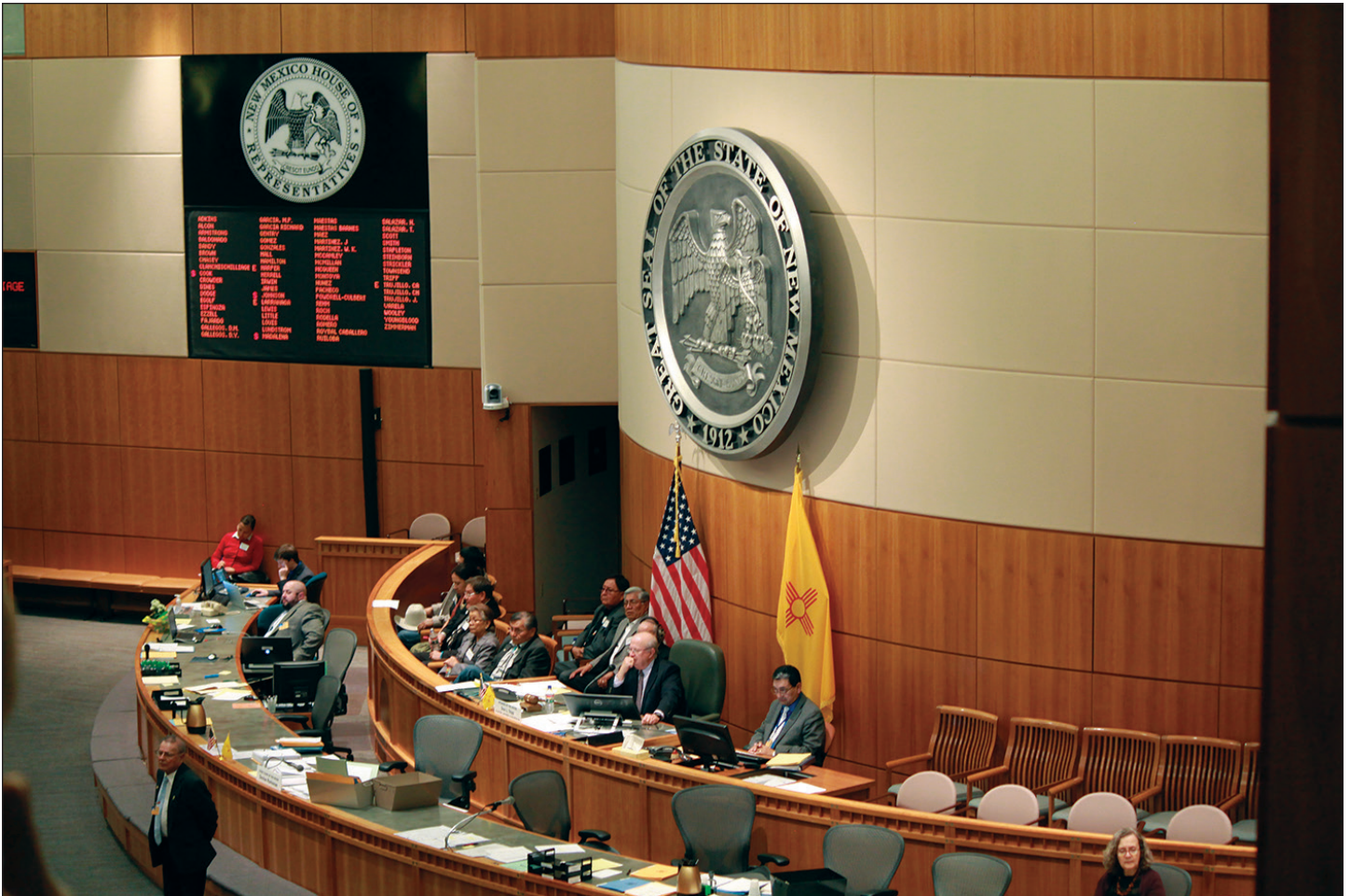




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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President Shelly signs tribal-state gaming compact, encourages DOI approval



President Shelly and other Navajo leaders listen to last week’s House of Representatives session before the close of the 2015 N.M. State Legislature. The Navajo delegation traveled to Santa Fe for weeks on end to ensure the gaming compact passed the legislature. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.— Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed the tribal gaming compact today during an impromptu signing ceremony at the Office of the President and Vice President.

Flanked by Speaker LoRenzo Bates and council delegates Nelson Begaye, Jonathan Hale and Leonard Tsosie, President Shelly signed the gaming compact for tribal approval. The compact now advances to

Gov. Susana Martinez and the U.S. Department of Interior.

“The Navajo Nation extends thanks to the tribes and pueblos that stood with us to get this compact passed,” President Shelly said. “I would also like to express appreciation for our counterparts at the Navajo Nation Council, Navajo Department of Justice and Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise.

“By working together,

we passed a historic gaming compact that will continue to impact our tribal economies for the next 22 years,” he added.

Karis Begaye, an attorney with Navajo DOJ, said this week, the five tribes will have their gaming compacts signed by their respective tribal leaders before submission to the governor’s office for approval and signature.

Another formal signing ceremony is expected to take

place in Santa Fe, when Gov. Martinez signs the compact and sends it forward to DOI, she said.

The goal is to submit the compact to the federal government next week for the start of the 45-day review period.