



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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**Nez-Lizer join U.S. Senator Heinrich and New Mexico
Governor Lujan Grisham in promoting renewable energy initiatives**



PHOTO: President Jonathan Nez speaking during a press conference at the 2019 energy summit at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, N.M. on Aug. 6, 2019.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer joined U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, and Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller for a press conference at the Albuquerque Convention Center, to announce several initiatives to promote renewable energy in the state of New Mexico.

The press conference was held at the conclusion of the two-day 2019 Energy Summit: Building New Mexico's Clean Energy Future, which was hosted by Sen. Heinrich's office, City of Albuquerque, state of New Mexico, and others.

During the press conference, President Nez highlighted the Nez-Lizer Administration's ongoing work to develop and construct the Paragon Bitsi Ranch solar project in the Navajo community of

Huerfano, New Mexico. The project would use approximately 660 acres of land for the solar utility scale development.

Last week, the Nez-Lizer Administration issued a Request for Proposals to begin the process of selecting a developer to design and construct the solar project using \$2 million that was appropriated by Gov. Lujan Grisham, along with other funding sources.

“We are proud to join Sen. Heinrich, Gov. Lujan Grisham, and the city of Albuquerque in moving the entire state forward with renewable energy development to benefit our communities, our economy, and the long-term sustainability of the state and the Navajo Nation,” said President Nez.

Gov. Lujan Grisham announced that her office would seek major changes to New Mexico’s Public Regulation Commission in the upcoming legislative session. In addition, Albuquerque Mayor Keller announced a federal grant that will allow the city to move toward the use of electrified buses in the next few years.



PHOTO: President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer with New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham in Santa Fe, N.M. on Aug. 6, 2019.

Prior to the press conference, President Nez and Vice President Lizer also met with Gov. Lujan Grisham at the Governor’s Office in Santa Fe, where they discussed renewable energy, Capital Outlay Funds, the Tribal Infrastructure Fund, Impact Aid for students, and the state’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force.

Gov. Lujan Grisham and New Mexico Indian Affairs Secretary Lynn Trujillo commended the Nez-Lizer Administration’s work to create renewable energy opportunities through partnerships with the state and other entities.

“We are always stronger when we stand together. It was a privilege to speak alongside President Nez, Senator Heinrich and Mayor Keller and so many other New Mexico leaders who have prioritized clean energy. Today was a demonstration of New Mexicans’ shared priorities around creating a thriving and diversified energy economy that works for all of us while protecting what we already have,” stated Gov. Lujan Grisham.

“Today marks a historic victory for the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico with the announcement of the Paragon-Bisti Solar Park. Renewable energy projects like this are helping to ensure that all New Mexicans will have access to clean, affordable, renewable energy,” said Indian Affairs Secretary Trujillo.

She added, “Through the leadership of Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and our Legislature we are one step closer to the vision of a renewable energy

economy in New Mexico. I applaud the Navajo Nation’s work to achieve this major milestone and we look forward to working with the Nation on more opportunities to build a clean energy future here in New Mexico.”

President Nez and Vice President Lizer were also joined by Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office Executive Director Robert K. Black and Navajo Nation Division of Community Development Executive Director Dr. Pearl Yellowman.

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