



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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Vice President Lizer advocates for economic development

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer met with members of Congress this week to discuss barriers to economic development, energy, Veterans, healthcare, and opportunity zones on the Navajo Nation.

On July 24, Vice President Lizer met with Rep. Markwayne Mullen, R-Okla., and on July 25, the vice president met with Reps. John Curtis, R-Utah, Debbie Lesko, R-Ariz., and Paul Gosar, R-Ariz. The vice president also met with staff in the offices of Rep. David Schweikert, R-Ariz., and Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz.

“It was important for me to meet with our Congressional delegation to discuss the need to create more economic opportunities on the Navajo Nation, as well as highlight issues of our uranium mine workers and veterans,” said Vice President Lizer.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer, Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ), and Navajo Nation Washington Office Executive Director Santee Lewis in Washington, D.C. on July 25, 2019.

The vice president underscored the need for broad bipartisan support for a number of measures introduced in the 116th Congress that impact Indian Country including the following bills:

- H.R. 3783, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2019, introduced by Assistant Secretary Ben Ray Luján, D-N.M.
- H.R. 3846, the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Cultural Patrimony Act of 2019, introduced by Assistant Speaker, Ben Ray Luján, D-N.M.
- H.R. 1900, the Native American Business Incubators Program Act, introduced by Rep. Deb Haaland, Pueblo of Laguna, D-N.M.

In addition to these pieces of legislation, Vice President Lizer highlighted the need for alternative means to recover jobs that will not return as a result of the closure of the Navajo Generating Station.

Speaking about economic development issues, Vice President Lizer emphasized the need to draw investors to opportunity zones. “As a businessman, I understand the need to create businesses and jobs on the Navajo Nation through the use of opportunity zones. The Navajo Nation has several opportunity zones located at the border of the Navajo Nation and we are open for business, Vice President Lizer said.

Vice President Lizer also met with Tyler Fish, Creek and Cherokee Nation, Senior Policy Advisor & Tribal Liaison, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, at the Navajo Nation Washington Office. Topics of discussion included missing and murdered Indigenous relatives, Veterans, public safety, renewable energy development, and infrastructure.

The vice president also met with U.S. Departments of Transportation and Commerce officials about infrastructure and economic development on the Navajo Nation.

President said the administration looks forward to working with lawmakers and and federal partners on these critical issues for the Navajo Nation.

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