



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 30, 2020

**Navajo Nation applauds signing of the Indian
Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2020**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer commend the signing of S. 212, the Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2020, by U.S. President Donald J. Trump on Wednesday. The Indian Community Economic Enhancement (ICEE) Act is intended to amend current programs and laws – the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 - with the goal of providing economic opportunity for Native Americans.

Together, the amendments will increase access to capital for Indian tribes and businesses, increase opportunities for Indian business promotion, and attract investors. The measure was approved by Congress in December.

“We thank Senator John Hoeven for his leadership in introducing this measure to promote economic development in Indian Country and look forward to seeing increased opportunity for Indian tribes, businesses, and individuals who have business aspirations,” said President Nez. “With only a handful of gas stations, grocery stores, and shops on the Navajo Nation, we all need to do more to support our local economy. Again, I am optimistic that this bill will help to build our Nation’s economy.”

Among other things, the ICEE Act will create a permanent waiver of the cost sharing requirement for Native American CDFIs who receive grants through the Native American CDFI Assistance Program at the Department of the Treasury. It will also streamline Federal economic development programming by requiring multi-agency coordination between the Departments of Commerce, Interior, and Treasury.

“I am overjoyed with the passing of S. 212 that former Senator Martha McSally cosponsored. After stepping into office, I have repeatedly encouraged our Navajo citizens to ‘Buy Navajo, Buy local’ and this measure will help make that a reality. We have many talented and driven business owners on the Navajo Nation that can use a hand up to help promote and build their businesses,” stated Vice President Myron Lizer.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President,
please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.