



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nez-Lizer strongly oppose Family Dollar's liquor license application to sell alcohol in the community of St. Michaels

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a letter to the Arizona State Liquor Board and the Apache County Board of Supervisors in which they strongly opposed Family Dollar's notice of application to sell alcohol in their store located on fee land in the community of St. Michaels, Ariz.



PHOTO: Family Dollar store located in St. Michaels, Ariz.

“This application poses a direct threat to the health and safety of the residents of St. Michael’s Chapter and the entire Navajo Nation. Our Navajo People have a long, ongoing battle with alcohol and the devastation that alcoholism causes to our families and communities. Consumption of alcohol has contributed to increased incidence of domestic violence and other criminal activity, motor vehicle fatalities, and deaths caused by exposure to extreme weather conditions. We cannot stand by and allow this liquor license application to go unchallenged,” stated President Nez and Vice President Lizer in the letter.

The Apache County Board of Supervisors has the authority to recommend to the Arizona State Liquor Board the approval or denial of the liquor license application. The Board of Supervisors has scheduled a hearing on Tuesday, July 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m. (MDT) at the Apache County Clerk’s Office in St. Johns, Ariz.

“It is our obligation as Navajo leaders to protect our entire nation, and particularly the most vulnerable of our people. We will continue to fight any liquor license application on or near the Navajo Nation. We ask that Apache County and the State of Arizona respect the Nation’s sovereign authority and recognize that Family Dollar’s proposed retail sales of packaged liquor would violate Navajo Nation laws and regulations. On behalf of the Nation and our Navajo People, we request that the Apache County Board of Supervisors recommend denial of Family Dollar’s application and that the Arizona State Liquor Board deny the application,” they added.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer strongly encourage individuals who reside within a one-mile radius of the Family Dollar store in St. Michaels to file a “Protest if Liquor License Application,” which can be found online at <https://azliquor.gov/assets/documents/board/FY2019/ProtestInstructions.pdf>.

In April, President Nez and Vice President Lizer also wrote to the Coconino County Board of Supervisors requesting their support to oppose another application for liquor license by the Family Dollar store located in Tuba City, Ariz.

“Our Navajo people are the primary customers that contribute to all of the revenue of these businesses. If Family Dollar continues to pursue liquor licenses in our communities, we strongly encourage our Navajo people to boycott these stores — they are taking advantage of our consumers. We demand that Family Dollar withdraw their applications for liquor licenses,” said President Nez.

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