



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Navajo Nation moves a step closer to providing electricity to Navajo families residing in the Westwater Subdivision with \$500,000 appropriation from Utah**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer are pleased to announce that Utah Gov. Spencer J. Cox and the Utah State Legislature approved \$500,000 in the state’s FY 2022 budget, to bring the Navajo Nation a step closer to providing much-needed electricity for 27 Navajo families in a 120-acre area known as the Westwater Subdivision, near Blanding, Utah, which was purchased by the Navajo Nation in 1986.

On Feb. 24, President Nez, Speaker Seth Damon, and Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown met with Gov. Cox and Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson and advocated for the restoration of the funding, which was previously reverted back to the state to help address the COVID-19 pandemic. President Nez has advocated for the Westwater Subdivision

“I appreciate Gov. Cox, Lt. Gov. Henderson, the Utah State Legislators, and Utah Division of Indian Affairs Director Dustin Jansen’s commitment to support the Westwater Subdivision. This community has many needs and this funding will move us forward on the path to providing electricity and water for our Navajo people that reside in the area. We will continue to work with all of our partners to identify more funds, possibly through the American Rescue Plan Act, to complete these initiatives as soon as possible,” said President Nez.

Gov. Cox also expressed his appreciation to all of the partners involved in securing funds to help the families that reside in the Westwater Subdivision.

“For too long, residents of the Westwater area have been lacking in a reliable source of electricity. We are pleased that the state Legislature has appropriated funding that will help bring much needed power to this community. We applaud our partners in the Utah Navajo Trust, the Navajo Nation, Blanding City and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for their help in making this a reality,” said Utah Gov. Spencer J. Cox.

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority is currently working with Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems and the city of Blanding on a proposed plan to extend powerline infrastructure from Blanding’s electric system to the Westwater Subdivision.

“This is a very exciting development for the 27 families that currently reside in the Utah community. We look forward to continuing the momentum and working toward completion of

this initiative. Thank you to Gov. Cox and all who laid hands to this work to help our Navajo people,” said Vice President Lizer.

The Nez-Lizer Administration will continue to work with the state of Utah, NTUA, and local Navajo leaders to provide water and electrical lines for the Westwater Subdivision.

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