



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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President Nez thanks the 24th Navajo Nation Council for supporting \$1 billion ARPA legislation for water, electricity, broadband, housing

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer extend their appreciation to the 20 members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council who voted in support of Legislation No. 0086-22 on Thursday, delivering over \$1 billion for water, electricity, broadband, housing, COVID-19 mitigation, E911/public safety, local chapter priorities, additional hardship assistance funds for new applicants, and other priorities through the American Rescue Plan Act. The legislation was sponsored by Council Delegate Mark Freeland and approved by the Council by a vote of 20-2, during a special session held on Thursday.

“This is a monumental moment for the Navajo people. Never in the history of our government have we invested this amount of funding to provide running water, electricity to homes, broadband connectivity, housing for families and veterans, and many more critical services for our people. This is nation building! \$1 billion will not address every need of our Nation, but it is a big step forward for the Navajo people. We extend our appreciation to the 20 Council members who put aside politics and put the people first by voting in support of the legislation, and Speaker Damon for presiding over the many discussions that occurred. I also thank all of the Division Directors, Chief of Staff Paulson Chaco, and technical experts who devoted so much of themselves to move this forward and never gave up despite the immense challenges. Now, begins the hard work to build a stronger nation for our people now and into the future,” said President Nez.

Office of the President and Vice President Chief of Staff Paulson Chaco stated, “This is the most comprehensive infrastructure package ever developed by the Navajo Nation. Our team kept fighting for the Navajo people because we know what they experience every day because of COVID-19. I’m proud of the technical team and the Division Directors for their commitment and for never giving up for our people.”

The legislation approved by the Council includes:

- \$215 million for water/wastewater
- \$96.4 million for home electricity connections
- \$120 million for broadband

- \$130 million for housing
- \$120 million for new hardship assistance applicants
- \$150 million for bathroom additions
- \$210 million for local chapter priorities
- \$35 for E911 and public safety
- \$19.2 million for health care
- \$5 million for cyber security
- \$15.5 million for former Bennett Freeze area housing

“Today is a historic day for the Navajo Nation. We worked together on legislation to address infrastructure, housing, COVID-19 relief, public safety, and community-based projects that have been waiting for funding for many years. It’s absolutely evident that we have a wide range of innovative projects and initiatives that respond to the needs of all 110 Navajo chapters in this legislation. I was proud to champion this meaningful legislation along with my colleagues and President Nez. Now, it is time to start the hard work for our people,” said Delegate Freeland.

The Office of the President and Vice President worked closely with technical experts to craft the legislation based on meetings held in many communities, along with supporting resolutions from chapters and agency councils. The legislation passed by the Council included several amendments including one to provide additional funds for each of the 24 legislative districts.

“As America proceeds forward with advanced technology and infrastructure, the Navajo Nation will finally begin its legacy towards stronger infrastructure development. As leaders, it is our responsibility to invest in roads, water, electricity, and broadband. Infrastructure investments are critical to the well-being of our sovereign Nation’s economy and the quality of Navajo life. The approved legislation demonstrates how Navajo leadership is prioritizing infrastructure investments holistically, organizing our Nation to yield success, and building partnerships to leverage funding and financing, which will build a legacy of accomplishment for our Navajo government. The Nez-Lizer Administration is committed to creating historic investments in all 110 communities, and we are thankful to the 24th Navajo Nation Council for today’s historic approval,” stated Vice President Lizer.

In 2020, the Navajo Nation successfully implemented \$714 million in CARES Act funds that provided electricity to over 1,000 homes and investments in water resources, hardship assistance for the Navajo people, telecommunications towers, COVID-19 relief, and much more.

Once the resolution for the ARPA funds is finalized by the Office of Legislative Services and certified by Speaker Seth Damon, the resolution will be delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President for review.

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