



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

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Navajo Nation Council joins President Nygren in signing a \$148 million legislation to improve all Navajo Nation senior centers



Navajo Nation Council Delegates joined President Buu Nygren as he signed a legislation funding improvements for all senior centers on the Navajo Nation.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined Navajo Nation President Dr. Buu Nygren at the Leupp Chapter House as he signed resolution CO-43-24, approving \$450,000 to renovate the Crownpoint Senior Center and over \$148 million to the Division of Aging and Long-Term Care Support to improve 85 senior centers across the Navajo Nation.

Resources and Development Committee Vice Chair Casey Allen Johnson, who represents Leupp Chapter, thanked President Nygren for signing the resolution without implementing any line-item vetoes. Council Delegate Johnson said the condition of the current Leupp Senior Center greatly needs repair.

“We finally got it done. I’ve made it a mission to see that the Leupp Chapter, the first Navajo chapter to be established, receives a new senior center,” Delegate Johnson said. “I want to thank President Nygren, his staff, the chapter officials, and all the elders in the community. This is for you. We’re going to continue to take care of every one of you, and make sure your needs are met.”

Although President Nygren signed the legislation without any line-item vetoes, in his letter accompanying the signed resolution, he indicated the need for a thorough assessment of all

senior centers to be undertaken by the Navajo Department of Health to assure that the needs of all senior centers are met.

Council Delegate Helena Nez Begay had previously worked as a Senior Center Supervisor in Kaibeto for over 22 years. She also served as a temporary Program Supervisor II, providing oversight for all Western Navajo Agency senior centers. Delegate Begay thanked all the senior center staff in attendance who continue to work tirelessly serving the Nation's elders.

"I'm grateful to receive funding for four new senior centers. Kaibeto will receive a brand new senior center. The current facility can only accommodate 30 seniors. Tonalea will receive a new senior center," Delegate Begay said. "For the longest time, both Bodaway Gap and Coppermine Chapters were satellite centers. Both will receive new centers that will serve a significant number of elders who will benefit from these services."



Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson thanked everyone involved for supporting and approving the resolution that benefits elders across the Navajo Nation.

Law and Order Committee Vice Chair Cherilyn Yazzie said the signing of the legislation was based on the love that the Nation holds for its elders. She thanked the gathered elders for their continued guidance and wisdom.

"For me, this legislation is about making sure that our elders get the services that they need so they can continue to be healthy. Elder nutrition is very important," Vice Chair Yazzie said. "For my area, two of my senior centers will receive funding for renovations. I'm very proud of this."

Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw said that many elders have come full circle from being working professionals to dedicating their lives in raising their families.

"I want to thank our elders for all their work in raising the leaders of the next generation. They are integral parts of our communities," Delegate Claw said. "This legislation is well-deserved in providing our elders a place to come together and enjoy each other."

President Nygren thanked Delegate Danny Simpson for sponsoring the legislation and Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty for her efforts in amending the original project scopes to include a comprehensive breakdown of anticipated costs for each senior center.

"Thank you elders for your guidance. We'll continue to use the teachings that our grandparents have instilled in us," President Nygren said.

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