



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 13, 2015

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253  
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174  
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

### **Governor Martinez signs off on New Mexico Gaming Compact**



**PHOTO: Speaker LoRenzo Bates and President Shelly stand with Gov. Martinez and other tribal leaders following the signing of the Gaming Compact between the tribes and the State of New Mexico.**

**WINDOW ROCK**– On Monday afternoon, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) and President Ben Shelly were on hand as New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez signed the recently approved Gaming Compact between the State of New Mexico and five gaming tribes including the Navajo Nation.

Speaker Bates thanked former and current members of Council, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, Office of the President and Vice President, and the Navajo Nation Department of Justice for their persistent efforts to finalize the Compact over the course of several years.

“The Compact will preserve over 800 jobs as well as income for Navajo and non-Navajo families in New Mexico and provide economic stability for our communities as well,” stated Speaker Bates.

The terms of the Gaming Compact were approved by the New Mexico State Senate and House of Representatives in March, following unanimous approval by members of the Council’s Naabik’iyáti’ Committee on Dec. 29.

Along with the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Mescalero Apache Nation, Pueblo of Acoma, and Pueblo of Jemez are also included as part of the Compact.

The Navajo Nation currently operates two Class III gaming facilities in New Mexico. The Compact will allow the Nation to convert its only Class II gaming facility to a Class III and eventually allow for a fourth Class III facility to be established as well.

According to the revenue sharing formula, revenue from the Navajo Nation to the State would escalate from eight-percent to nine-percent and to 10.75% over the duration of the 23-year compact which will expire on June 30, 2037.

In 2014, the Navajo Nation's three gaming facilities generated nearly \$80 million, while providing nearly 800 jobs and contributing approximately \$6.3 million to the State of New Mexico through revenue sharing.

"We stand ready to address the Compact during the final review by the Department of the Interior," added Speaker Bates. "We look forward to finalizing the Compact as soon as possible."

The Compact will be sent to the U.S. Department of the Interior for final approval. DOI will have 45 days to approve or disapprove. If no action is taken within that timeframe, the Compact will be deemed approved on the 46th day.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org) or find us on Facebook and Twitter, search for keywords: Navajo Nation Council