



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS

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

Navajo Nation Council applauds final approval of New Mexico Gaming Compact

WINDOW ROCK— Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) has announced that the Gaming Compact between the State of New Mexico and five gaming tribes including the Navajo Nation has been deemed approved, in accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The Compact was signed by New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez on April 13, and has been under review by the U.S. Department of the Interior since late April.

In accordance with the IGRA, the DOI had 45 days to approve or disapprove. The IGRA states that if no action is taken within that timeframe, the Compact is deemed approved on the 46th day, which was June 5, 2015.

“The U.S. Department of the Interior had until June 5 to approve or deny the terms of the Compact in accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act,” said Speaker Bates. “Accordingly, the Compact has been deemed approved.”

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.

“For the past three years, my Council colleagues have devoted countless time and effort to preserving over 800 jobs as well as income for Navajo and non-Navajo families in New Mexico and we are pleased with the outcome,” stated Speaker Bates.

The Council’s Naabik’iyáti’ Committee gave its final approval of the Compact on Dec. 29, which was later approved by the New Mexico State Senate and House of Representatives

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

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

Revenue from the Navajo Nation to the State will 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.

“We are very proud of the combined efforts and we look forward to growing the Nation’s gaming industry for the benefit of the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico,” added Speaker Bates.

The Nation’s current Compact is set to expire on June 30, 2015. Terms of the new Compact will take effect immediately.

#

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