



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Gaming Compact approved by New Mexico House of Representatives**

*Compact awaits Governor Martinez's signature*

**SANTA FE, N.M.** – The New Mexico House of Representatives on Thursday afternoon approved the Navajo Nation's Gaming Compact with a vote of 61-5. The proposed Compact will now be forwarded to Gov. Susana Martinez for consideration.

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 proposed Compact.

With the Nation's current Compact set to expire on June 30 of this year, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) has consistently urged state legislators to move the Compact forward due to strict time constraints which now require the approval of Gov. Martinez and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"I'm thankful to both the House and Senate for approving the Compact and now we look forward to consulting and working cooperatively with Gov. Martinez and the Department of the Interior to finalize the Compact," stated Speaker Bates.

Speaker Bates also extended his appreciation to the leaders from each of the four other tribes, the Office of the President and Vice President, the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, Navajo Nation Department of Justice, and the many others who assisted throughout.

"Throughout the process of moving the Compact forward, the five tribes remained united and I am grateful for their efforts that will ultimately benefit our tribes and the people of New Mexico," added Speaker Bates.

Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Tuchoney Slim, Jr. joined Speakers Bates and President Ben Shelly at Thursday's House session.

The Navajo Nation currently operates two Class III gaming facilities in New Mexico. The proposed Compact would 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.

The revenue sharing formula outlined within the proposed compact shows that 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 would expire on June 30, 2037.

In 2014, the Navajo Nation's three gaming facilities generated nearly \$80 million, while providing approximately 755 jobs and contributed approximately \$6.3 million to the State of New Mexico through revenue sharing.

If signed by Gov. Martinez, the Compact will then be submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior for final approval, as required by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. 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.

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