



March 18, 2015

**Statement from Speaker LoRenzo Bates: Let the People Decide**

The latest motion filed today by Mr. Tsosie and Mr. Whitethorne raises a question about the legislation recently passed by the Navajo Nation Council. The resolution funds the Navajo Election Administration to conduct a referendum on the qualifications of a Navajo presidential candidate, and also funds the general election for the Office of the President and Vice President. This legislation was signed by the Navajo President and is now valid Navajo Nation law.

In accordance with this law, the Navajo Election Administration will hold a referendum election on the question of the fluency requirement for candidates for President and Vice President. This is a matter that will be decided by the People in the coming weeks and in compliance with Navajo Nation election laws. After the People have decided the fluency issue the Navajo Election Administration will proceed with the postponed general election.

Mr. Tsosie and Mr. Whitethorne are attempting to take away the People's right to decide this important issue. The Navajo Nation Council, in addressing this resolution, is giving this issue to the Navajo People as the Navajo courts have previously decided in their court opinions. The election for Navajo President and Vice-President will take place as soon as possible, but after the People have spoken.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Bates', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

LoRenzo Bates, Speaker  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council