



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Navajo Nation Council members meet with leaders and key officials to advocate for Navajo issues

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Jan. 19-20, members of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council attended the 58th Annual Presidential Inauguration and other events in an effort to begin advocating for Navajo Nation issues and aid in safeguarding federal resources, with the Trump Administration.

Apart from the inaugural events, Council members met with several key Congressional members and officials to continue to educate and inform new leadership of the priorities and initiatives of the Navajo Nation, as well as establish a positive working relationship.

Speaker of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) said in interacting with Congressional leaders and officials, they have conveyed they are open to working with the Navajo Nation and have the desire to learn more about the needs of Indian Country.

“With persistent advocacy and the willingness to continue developing the partnership with the Trump administration, it has the potential to foster future opportunities for the Navajo Nation. My colleagues and I will remain diligent in our efforts to uphold the best interests of our Diné Citizens,” said Speaker Bates.

In December, Council attended a listening session hosted by the Trump Native American transition team where they emphasized the need to develop a partnership between tribes to strengthen tribal sovereignty, amend policies and laws that hinder economic development, advocate for increased public safety funding, and many other pressing issues that affect Indian Country.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáo'z't'í'í) said it was important to inform the new leaders and officials of the public safety needs and she will continue to advocate for funding for sexual assault prevention and victim services.

“This is a critical and perilous time for Navajo people. The federal government provides about \$2 billion of funding to the Navajo Nation, and we must be at the table when decisions are made that

directly impact our Diné Citizens. Funding for violence against women prevention, victim services, and victim advocates could be in jeopardy. This is not a time to be silent, but a time to stand up and fight for these resources,” said Delegate Crotty.

Delegate Crotty said that federal funding the Navajo Nation receives includes Public Law 93-638 programs that provide direct and indirect services, Indian Health Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, federal impact aid, and many other resources that the Navajo Nation receives from the federal government annually.

Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí’, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) stressed the importance of advocating for the growth of economic development on the Navajo Nation regardless of political differences.

“Despite if you agree or disagree with the new leadership in D.C., our meetings that we had with Peabody and the Salt River Project were very effective and held new direction. With the assistance of the Trump Administration, we may be able to keep the Navajo Generating Station doors open through the next seven years,” said Delegate Damon.

Delegate Damon added that if NGS were to shut down, it could result in the loss of over 1,300 jobs on the Navajo Nation, as well as a significant loss of revenue that contributes to the Nation’s annual budget.

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