



24th Navajo Nation Council

Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Council Speaker Damon Shares Navajo Nation's Priorities with N.M. Governor at Tribal Summit

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Navajo Nation Speaker Seth Damon delivered the Navajo Nation's priorities to New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, May 15, at the N.M. State Tribal Leaders Summit.

"The Council is committed to a strong relationship with the state of New Mexico," stated Speaker Damon. "In coordination with the president's office, it is incumbent upon the Council to educate New Mexico leadership on the Nation's priorities and identify goals and objectives to advance."

In addition to the governor, the Speaker produced the priorities, which are codified in Naabik'íyáti Committee Resolution NABIJA-04-19, to cabinet secretaries and key state leadership.

The Council identified 28 subject areas for engagement with the state, ranging from support of chapter capital outlay projects to proposals to addressing human trafficking and sexual assault prevention.

Each standing committee of the Council elaborated on the priorities in NABIJA-04-19 for consideration in their respective jurisdictional areas.

For example, the Resources and Development Committee identified the cleanup of abandoned uranium mines and revisiting uranium transport across the Nation's lands.

Working with the state, the Law and Order Committee has already seen success in one of their priorities. They prioritized funding for the Shiprock and Window Rock public safety and judicial facilities and the state awarded \$3.15 million and \$1.2 million, respectively for each project.

"It really was an opportune time for the Navajo Nation because of the governor and her push to involve tribal nations and to bring them to the table and giving them a voice in regards to the issues that affect Indian Country," said Law and Order Committee Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock).

She added the first day of the meeting had a positive feel amongst the 21 tribal nations represented and that a lot was accomplished.

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