



Speaker's Report

2017 Fall Council Session

Honorable LoRenzo Bates

23rd Navajo Nation Council

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23rd Navajo Nation Council
Fall Council Session
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Message from Speaker LoRenzo Bates

Yá'át'ééh and welcome my colleagues of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, chapter officials, federal, state, and county officials, legislative staff, and most importantly, to our Diné Citizens. Thank you for joining us as we welcome you to the 2017 Fall Council Session.

The 23rd Navajo Nation Council continues to take actions that reflect the priorities of this Council to help and empower our Navajo people and communities. While it may take time to see the results of Council's legislative actions, we remain dedicated to working for the Navajo people.

The following report will highlight some of the ongoing initiatives that we continue to work toward. In addition, it will highlight some of the recent accomplishments that have resulted from past legislative actions such as the start of major water infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation.

Moving forward, the Council will continue to take on many issues and make difficult decisions for our Navajo people that will impact our revenue stream, direct services, and many other issues.

In closing, I extend my greatest appreciation to all the legislative staff, dignitaries, students, and many others that contribute their time and resources to make the Fall Council Session a success. I thank you on behalf of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LoRenzo Bates".

LoRenzo Bates, *Speaker*
23rd Navajo Nation Council



Síhasin Fund: \$554 Million Trust Settlement Funds

Bulk Water Projects

Many of our people have asked, "Where did the \$554 million settlement funds go?" In late September, Diné citizens finally began to see the real results of the Navajo Nation Council's investments using the \$554 million settlement funds that the Navajo Nation received from the federal government in 2014.

On September 22, members of the Navajo Nation Council gathered in the community of Greasewood for a groundbreaking ceremony to commence the start of construction of the "Ganado, Lower Greasewood, and Dilkon Water Improvement Project," which is one of the first bulk water infrastructure projects funded partially by the \$554 million settlement funds that the Navajo Nation received from the federal government in 2014.



PHOTO: Speaker LoRenzo Bates, Vice President Jonathan Nez, and Council Delegate Lee Jack, Sr. along with NTUA and federal officials at the groundbreaking ceremony in Greasewood, Ariz. on Sept. 22, 2017.

In January 2015, the Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved legislation sponsored by Council Delegate Leonard Tsoisie, to provide \$180 million from the Síhasin Fund to help leverage funding for bulk water projects throughout the Navajo Nation as part of a comprehensive water development strategy developed by NTUA, the Water Management Branch, and others.

The \$9.1 million project will double the current water capacity for several communities including Ganado, Cornfields, Lower Greasewood, Dilkon, Indian Wells, Bidahochie, and Teesto, by improving current water well capacities and constructing an additional water well. The project also includes the construction of a water filtering plant that will remove iron, manganese, and other matter to improve the quality of water for the communities.

The Síhasin Fund provided over \$1.2 million for the project through a loan agreement with NTUA, which means the funds will be paid back over a period of time.

In 2014, when the Council hosted seven public hearings across the Navajo Nation to hear what the Navajo people thought we should use the \$554 million to fund, water infrastructure was near the top of the list. I am pleased to report that the Council is beginning to address that need with projects such as the "Ganado, Lower Greasewood, and Dilkon Water Improvement Project."

This is only the first of several major water infrastructure projects that will soon break ground and provide clean water for many families that are in great need of water. In addition, these projects will be a major part

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of establishing infrastructure to support community and economic development in the future.

I thank my Council colleagues, NTUA, Water Management Branch, and many others who continue to work together to bring these projects to fruition.

Twin Arrows Public Safety Building

On September 25, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise to celebrate the opening of the new Twin Arrows Public Safety Building, which will provide public safety and emergency response services for Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort and local Navajo communities.

In April 2016, the Síhasin Fund Twin Arrows Police and Fire Substation Economic/Community Development Expenditure Plan was supported by the Navajo Nation Council through legislation sponsored by Council Delegate Seth Damon, which approved \$4.5 million from the Síhasin Fund for the new facility.

This project is another example of how the \$554 million settlement funds are being used for the benefit of our Navajo people. Again, the \$4.5 million from the Síhasin Fund that were approved by the Council for this project were leveraged, meaning that other funding sources also contributed to this project.

The new facility is a sign of progress and it also supports economic development by helping our Nation's investment in the gaming industry. In addition, the facility will also provide services to the surrounding communities of Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii, and Dilkon.

The 15,000 square-foot facility, located near Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort, has office space, living quarters for personnel, holding cells for inmates, training rooms, and a garage bay for fire trucks. The substation will house police officers along with a sergeant, five firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel. As my colleague Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie stated, this project is also a sign of self-determination for the Navajo Nation and shows that we are more than capable of providing for our people and our communities.

I thank everyone who supported this project including my Council colleagues, the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, and many others.



PHOTO: Members of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council and 2017-2018 Miss Navajo Crystal Littleben, during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Twin Arrows Public Safety building near Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort in Leupp, Ariz. on Sept. 25, 2017.

Navajo Generating Station

The Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the President and Vice President continue to seek new ownership for the Navajo Generating Station to prevent closure of the power plant at the end of 2019, and to provide continued stability for Kayenta Mine as well. These two facilities together represent a significant portion of our Nation's overall General Revenues and over 1,000 of our Nation's highest paying jobs.

In June, the Council approved legislation that prevented the closure of NGS in 2017, and extended the lease agreement with the current owners until the end of 2019. This action has not only allowed the Navajo Generation Station to remain operational until 2019, it has maintained the Nation's General Revenue budget and has allowed for our Navajo workforce to continue working and supporting their families here on Navajo land.

Now that the 2019 agreement is completed, we can begin the planning process in seeking new ownership of the generating station for the Nation beyond 2019 to ensure the continued operations of Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine. It is important that we keep in the forefront of our mind the impact these operations have on our economy, our budget, and the livelihood of our Navajo workforce and their families.

Over this next year, we will be working closely with the Joint Energy Task Force to work toward solutions to keep Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta Mine open, as well as looking toward a more diversified energy and economic portfolio for our Nation.

On the road to diversifying our Nation's energy portfolio, we were pleased to take part in NTUA's grand opening of their first utility scale solar plant. This 27.5-megawatt project sits on 300 acres of land just south of Monument Valley. The Council will continue to support energy diversification, which includes renewable energy on the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation Council Chamber

The renovation project to fix structural issues that were identified during a structural investigation of the Council Chamber continues to be addressed.

The results of the structural investigation initiated the project and assisted in identifying the areas that required the most attention. Among the concerns were the rotted exterior timbers, roof, and the lack of handicap access.

Partnerships were established with the Historical Preservation Department and the Human Rights Commission to ensure all precautions were met in terms of Navajo traditions and culture. To ensure the Council Chamber retains its status as a historical landmark, a list of guide-



PHOTO: Workers installing the permanent log beams onto the Council Chamber

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lines had to be followed.

As a result of the renovation project, the interior has been completely renovated with exception of the council desks. The exterior timbers have been completely replaced. Reroofing of the Council Chamber will be the final stage of this project. Although, we had hoped for a completed project by the Fall Session, we continue to work with Keyah Construction to ensure the project is completed diligently and with great caution.



PHOTO: Newly installed permanent log beams on the Council Chamber.

New Mexico Real ID Act



PHOTO: Delegate Norman Begay, William Duran - Director for Motor Vehicle Division, John Monforte - Secretary of NM Tax & Revenue Department, Speaker LoRenzo Bates, Delegate Leonard Tsosie, Delegate Steven Begay, and N.M. State Rep. Sharon Clahchischilliaage (Dist. 4.) met with officials from New Mexico Tax & Revenue Department on August 28, 2017 in Santa Fe, N.M.

Many Navajo residents have experienced issues in obtaining or renewing driver's licenses since the implementation of the Real ID Act for the State of New Mexico. On March 8, 2016, Governor Susana Martinez signed House Bill 99 into law, known as the Real ID Act to comply with the federal Real ID Act of 2005. The Act provides all New Mexico residents two options to obtain or renew either a Real ID Driver's License or a Driving Authorization Card (DAC).

The purpose of imposing the Real ID Act is to improve the reliability and accuracy of state-issued identification documents, such as driver's licenses. This has been an ongoing

coordinated effort by the states and the Federal government.

Since the rollout of the Real ID Act on November 16, 2016, hundreds of residents across the state began to experience varying difficulties in renewing their driver's license, including our Navajo tribal members.

Several Council Delegates have expressed concerns that they have been experiencing problems with New Mexico Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) in providing documents for proof of physical addresses and birth certificates.

Due to these concerns, the Office of the Speaker reached out to New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department to request a meeting to explore solutions that would better serve our Navajo people in obtaining or

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renewing a Real ID Driver's License or DAC. As a result, two meetings were held on August 28 and September 20, to begin collaboration with the NM Taxation and Revenue Department, MVD, and the Navajo Office of Vital Records & Identification to minimize potential barriers for all residents.

Furthermore, the MVD provides two options for New Mexico residents to renew their driver's licenses, which includes:

1. Real I.D. Driver's License meets federal requirements to use as a valid form of identification and allows driving privileges recognized throughout the United States.
2. Driving Authorization Card (DAC) is basically a driver's permit to use in the State of New Mexico and may not be recognized outside of New Mexico.

Moving forward, the Office of the Speaker and the 23rd Navajo Nation Council have coordinated a Town Hall Meeting on October 13, in Crownpoint, NM for the public to share their concerns and experience regarding the Real ID Act. In addition, Council members and New Mexico officials want the opportunity to clarify the required documents in obtaining or renewing a driver's license. With this in mind, NM MVD is now accepting a Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) as an official required document. This will help many Navajo residents, more specifically our elders, alleviate the burden of obtaining a Birth Certificate.

There will be future Town Hall Meetings scheduled throughout Northern and Eastern Agencies for communication purposes to our Navajo citizens regarding the process of obtaining or renewing a Real ID Driver's License or DAC.

Navajo Indian Irrigation Project for Navajo Agricultural Products Industry

The Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP) Negotiation Subcommittee has met on three occasions to discuss and identify the priorities related to the future of the NIIP. In a joint effort with the Resources and Development Committee, Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) Board of Directors and Management, former NAPI legal counsel, and other entities, the subcommittee is currently focused on lobbying strategies to complete the NIIP.

On June 23, the NIIP Negotiation Subcommittee met at the NAPI Headquarters to develop a plan in pursuing a supporting resolution from the Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC). The Navajo Nation hosted a TIBC workshop during the last week of July. The NIIP Subcommittee felt this was a great opportunity to approach TIBC for a supporting resolution based on NIIP priorities to complete the project. However, the TIBC recommended a supporting letter rather than a resolution to include concerns for all BIA irrigation programs and tribal statutory obligations.

The NIIP Negotiation Subcommittee met again on September 25, to discuss NIIP Priorities based on RDC-JY-75-17, which includes 1.) Adequate funding to complete NIIP Block 9 - 10,000 acres; 2.) Increases the 638 contract an additional \$6 million for NAPI to provide adequate O&M for NIIP; and 3.) Eligibility for funding

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PHOTO: Congressman Ben R. Lujan along with Speaker LoRenzo Bates, Delegate Tuchoney Slim, Jr., Sharon Pinto - BIA Regional Director, Barry Longwell - USBR Construction Engineer, and officials from NAPI, BIA, and USBR, visited the NAPI organic fields in Block 9 on August 24, 2017 near Farmington, N.M.

appropriations under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. The proposal was presented by NAPI management, as they continue to emphasize adequate funding be restored for new NIIP construction. The completion would include On-Farm Development functions to develop new irrigable land; sustain Operations, Maintenance, and Repair (OM&R) functions for the NIIP under the P.L. 93-638 contract; and to address the backlog of deferred maintenance concerns of Blocks 1-7 within the NIIP.

In addition, NAPI officials hosted a visit on August 24 for Congressman Ben R. Lujan to tour NIIP. NAPI shared their continuing challenges to operate the NIIP with inadequate funding. The tour included a visit to NAPI's Headquarters Control Center, Gallegos Pumping Plant, and the Block 9 organic crop fields. NAPI provided a brief history of the NIIP and further emphasized that the estimated service life of the NIIP infrastructure is 45 to 50 years, and the project is reaching this limit. It was also conveyed that the Gallegos Pumping Plant was built to service Blocks 10 and 11 and currently the pumping plant is 70-percent underutilized.

In addition, NAPI officials hosted a visit on August 24 for Congressman Ben R. Lujan to

NAPI is currently pursuing a Master Agricultural Lease for the NIIP boundary. A letter was sent to the Navajo Nation Land Department to facilitate and approve the project boundary and an agricultural lease developed by NAPI. Although NAPI continues to experience challenges with grazing permits and home-site leases within the NIIP boundary, NAPI is moving forward in working with professional land surveyors to compile information to successfully acquire a master lease for the areas that have been developed.

Moving forward, the NIIP Negotiation Subcommittee plans to visit with congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. in November to advocate on behalf of the NIIP.

Naabik'íyáti' Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee's Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee has continued to work at their priorities, and more recently, have been proactive in developing policy and amending Navajo Nation laws addressing human trafficking and revenge porn.

SAP Subcommittee and Health, Education, and Human Services Committee member Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown, who also serves on the Arizona Human Trafficking Council, initiated a human trafficking prevention and education initiative on the Navajo Nation. Delegate Brown has stated that he is committed to continue advocating for policies to address human trafficking at the tribal, state, and federal levels.

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PHOTO: Delegate Brown at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland on Sept. 18-22.

In July, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council approved Resolution No. CJY-48-17, which amended the Navajo Nation Criminal Code Title 17 to enact the 2017 Navajo Nation Law Against Human Trafficking, which was signed into law on August 7. Before the law was passed, the Nation had no existing human trafficking laws within the Criminal Code.

In September, Delegate Brown was invited to participate at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, in which he advocated on behalf of the Navajo Nation and Indian Country to strengthen anti-trafficking laws and stressed the need for education. In conjunction with Casey Family Programs, Delegate Brown has been working closely with the program to research resources that would aid in developing a strategic plan to study human trafficking and its effects on the Navajo Nation. It will be dubbed "The Navajo Nation White Paper."

Creating a "White Paper" will aid our Nation in developing better human trafficking laws. The aim of the paper is to help us understand how human trafficking is affecting our Navajo communities, Navajo Nation citizens on and off the reservation, and to propose policy recommendations. Delegate Brown seeks to collaborate with federal partners and gain resources through the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Attorneys Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and the BIA to help complete this project.

This month, the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing regarding human trafficking in Indian Country, and the Navajo Nation had the opportunity to submit a written testimony stating our objectives and advocacy efforts. Delegate Brown, in coordination with the Office of the Speaker and the Navajo Nation Washington Office, provided concerns and recommendations to the U.S. SCIA.

Among the concerns, Delegate Brown stated that the Navajo Nation is seeking stronger data collection, increase in stringent laws to prosecute traffickers, amend federal mandates that have created additional barriers for Indian Country, and the promotion of public awareness campaigns and educational training sessions for Navajo law enforcement, programs, leaders, schools, and communities.

The Council commends the efforts of Delegate Brown for not only initiating the fight against human trafficking on the Navajo Nation, but for continuing to advocate at all levels and developing policies on our Nation for the safety for our Diné Citizens.

In addition to human trafficking, SAP Subcommittee members have begun addressing the topic of "revenge porn." HEHSC chair and SAP Subcommittee member Council Delegate Jonathan Hale introduced Legislation No. 0347-17 this past September, which seeks to amend the Navajo Nation Criminal Code Title 17 to enact the Navajo Nation Revenge Porn Act. SAP Subcommittee chair Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty is co-sponsoring the bill.

The act would implement a new subsection into the criminal code that would make it unlawful to intentional-

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ly distribute images or videos depicting states of nudity or specific sexual activities of another person without their permission as a means of revenge, retaliation, threatening and intimidation, and harassment. Nearly 38 states and the District of Columbia have implemented similar revenge porn laws, including Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah—and the Navajo Nation has begun tackling the issue.

Recently, the SAP Subcommittee began receiving reports from victims who have been targeted by former disgruntled partners or spouses. The subcommittee took the reports seriously by working on the Navajo Nation's first revenge porn law. Delegate Hale has stated that the perpetrators of sex crimes now utilize the internet to threaten and intimidate victims through revenge porn as a means to intentionally harm another individual.



PHOTO: SAP Subcommittee chair Delegate Crotty providing testimony regarding domestic/sexual violence issues on the Navajo Nation to the New Mexico Indian Affairs Committee on Oct. 6 in Albuquerque, N.M.

At the federal level, Delegate Crotty was invited to provide testimony at the 2017 Department of Justice – Office on Violence Against Women National Tribal Consultation in Fort McDowell earlier this month. Chairwoman Crotty focused on the need to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and to strengthen the law so it can aid the Navajo Nation in prosecuting non-Navajo perpetrators within our Nation, and providing justice to victims. Delegate Crotty also provided testimony on October 6 to the New Mexico Indian Affairs Committee regarding domestic violence along with the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women.

In regards to victims, we were pleased to see the introduction of Senate Bill 1870 by the chairman for the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, U.S. Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND). The proposed SURVIVE Act would improve public safety in tribal communities and strengthen resources for Native American victims of crime, and we are eager to see it aid Navajo Nation victims of human trafficking and sexual violence. I would also like to thank the leaders who are co-sponsoring the SURVIVE Act – Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Al Franken (D-MN), Steve Daines (R-MT), Jon Tester (D-MT), and John Barrasso (R-WY).

On behalf of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council and the SAP Subcommittee, we also appreciate the efforts of Sen. Heitkamp for introducing legislation entitled "Savanna's Act," a bill that aims to combat the epidemic of murdered and missing Native American women and girls. Native American women are murdered at 10-times the national average, and 84-percent of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. The bill, Savanna's Act, is named in honor of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, who was tragically killed this past August. The Office of the Speaker will continue to monitor the federal bills and provide updates.

The SAP Subcommittee continues to tackle issues regarding sexual assault and sexual violence prevention through policy development. Our Navajo citizens can be assured that the members are doing everything they can to focus on victim justice and healing, as well as increasing protections.

United States Navy Ships – “USNS Navajo”

Over the last few months, much progress has been made in our efforts to have a U.S. Navy ship named after the Navajo Nation. In 2014, the 22nd Navajo Nation Council passed Resolution NABIN-63-14 in support of naming USN T-ATS Class Tug and Rescue Salvage ships “USNS Navajo.” The United States Navy is scheduled to decommission eight ships and replace them with a single class of eight or nine vessels. The replacement vessels are currently programmed for Initial Operating Capability (IOC) in December of 2020.

In June, U.S. Sen. John McCain proudly advocated on the Navajo Nation’s behalf and issued a supporting letter to the then acting Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley. Supporting language was also stated within National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018. In September, the legislation sponsored by Sen. McCain was passed with unanimous support.

In August, Richard Spencer was confirmed as the 75th Secretary of the Navy. Upon the SECNAV Spencer’s confirmation, a letter was sent humbly requesting his support in continuing the long-standing tradition of naming ships after Native American tribes.

The authority for the naming of Navy ships resides within the Secretary of the Navy, under the direction of the President and in accordance with rules prescribed by Congress.

The Office of the Speaker issued letters requesting Congressional members to support the name designation through the Navajo Nation’s supporting resolution, and Council is very thankful that our voices were heard by our nation’s leaders.

The Navajo Nation Council is grateful of Senator McCain’s support and remains optimistic of the outcome of this initiative.

Arizona Highway 264 Road Improvements



PHOTO: Delegate Shepherd, FNF Construction, ADOT representatives, Speaker LoRenzo Bates, and Miss Navajo Nation Crystal Littleben at the AZ Highway 264 ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 27, 2017 at Ganado Chapter.

On September 27, we were honored to be a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of a portion of Highway 264 in the community of Ganado. The stretch of highway approximately 9.7-miles long is used by many people from various surrounding communities.

In 2016, the Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration allocated approximately \$24 million for state highway road improvements in the community of Ganado. The road improvement project includes widening and paving of the roadway, replacement of a bridge,

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installation of guardrails and signage, and erosion control.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd and I recognized and thanked the various entities who contributed to the road improvement project including Apache County District II, Ganado Unified School District, Kin Dah Lichi Olta, Greasewood Springs Community School, Nazlini Community School, surrounding chapters, and community members and families.

The successful partnership between the Navajo Nation and ADOT will provide a safer and sustainable highway for families, schools, commuters, and travelers in the community of Ganado for several years to come.

Transportation Priorities

In 2016, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council developed a list of nine goals and priorities based on input and recommendations from the Navajo people, communities, and leadership. One of the nine priorities included Infrastructure Development and Improvements, focusing on the transportation needs across the Navajo Nation. Our current road system needs serious improvement, as transportation is what binds the Navajo Nation together.

With over 15,000 miles of roads within the Navajo Nation, almost 12,000 miles are not paved. As federal dollars continue to lessen, it becomes incumbent that the Navajo Nation begin to utilize its own resources to care for road infrastructure development.

On September 26, I met with Anthony R. Bedell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs of the U.S. Department of Transportation to discuss the Navajo Nation Transportation Priorities and funding. As you are aware, our roads impact all citizens and our lands across Navajo to provide vitally needed access within and between states, and support a multitude of economic interests, including tourism, agriculture, energy production, manufacturing, etc. In this manner, transportation is the backbone of our Navajo Nation economy by driving growth, creating jobs, and providing more livable communities.

Mr. Bedell further stressed that Secretary Elaine L. Chao understands that infrastructure is vital for economic competitiveness and strengthening economic growth in tribal communities requires a strong collaboration between U.S. DOT and the Navajo Nation.

It was outlined during the meeting that a \$1.5 billion discretionary grant program was available through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program. The INFRA program could fund projects that are in line with the Trump Administration's principles to help rebuild America's infrastructure, which is a priority for this current administration. In addition to providing direct federal funding, the INFRA program aims to increase the total investment by state, local, tribal, and private partners.

The INFRA grant program preserves the statutory requirement in the FAST Act to award at least 25% of funding for rural projects, including the Navajo Nation. INFRA is an opportunity for entities to apply directly

for financial assistance from the federal government, especially for rural communities in need of funding for highways and multimodal freight projects with national or regional economic significance. For these communities, U.S. DOT will consider an applicant's resource constraints when assessing the leverage criterion. This is a great opportunity for the Navajo Nation to consider.

In addition, Mr. Bedell encouraged the Navajo Nation to apply for a \$500 million in discretionary grant funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. Based on the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, it appropriated \$500 million, which is available through September 30, 2020 for National Infrastructure Investments, otherwise known as TIGER grants.

The U.S. DOT has expressed interest in partnering with the Navajo Nation to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system across the Navajo Nation that enhances the quality of life for Navajo people, today and into the future.

AZ, NM, and UT State Legislatures Reports

Arizona State Legislature

There are a number of issues, which the Navajo Nation will be confronted with during the upcoming Legislative Session in January at the Arizona State Capitol, representing both challenges and opportunities.

Arizona Gaming

The Naabik'iyáti Gaming Subcommittee, with the leadership of Chairman Alton Joe Shepherd, has led the process of the negotiation on Arizona's State Tribal Gaming Compacts between Governor Doug Ducey and Arizona tribes. The goal for Navajo generally is to obtain a secure, longer, and profitable gaming compact for the Nation and one that modernizes the regulatory framework. These negotiations are critical for the future of Navajo's Arizona gaming.

This past legislative session, several bills were introduced that posed as a threat to Indian gaming, and three made some progress. The bills, that made the most progress, were various expansions to the Arizona lottery. These bills were opposed by Navajo and other Arizona tribes, and did not succeed. Nonetheless more of these bills are expected in the upcoming 2018 legislative session.

Transaction Privilege Tax Equity

A long-sought goal of the Navajo Nation is to obtain an equitable share of the Arizona Transaction Privilege Tax earned on the Nation.

Last session, at the request of the Navajo Nation, the Arizona Legislative Council drafted the Navajo TPT Equity provision. State Rep. Jeff Thorpe added the amendment to one of the budget bills. The amendment would have generated a distribution system, where 15% of the TPT earned on the Navajo Nation in Arizona is returned to the Navajo for infrastructure, economic development, and public safety. The percentage would have been 5% in the first year, 10% in the second year, and 15% in the 3rd year.

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This opportunity is still up for discussion in the 2018 legislative session. Looking to next year, the Navajo Nation will need to consider this goal and determine its priority. Support from the Republican majority will need to be secured.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

AHCCCS has become a major provider of Indian health care in Arizona for 638 Indian health care facilities. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are responsible for the development of AHCCCS rules. New leadership at CMS is seeking potential changes to federal policy, which will result in further cuts in the Medicaid-ACA system.

Within Arizona's current Section 1115 Waiver Amendment, it states, "all able-bodied adults must become employed or be actively seeking employment, or attend school or a job training program" to receive benefits. The Amendment also requires beneficiaries to verify on a monthly basis, compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. Furthermore, AHCCCS requires members to pay contributions (i.e., copays and premiums).

Last May, Gov. Ducey met with Council Delegates Jonathan Hale, Dwight Witherspoon, and Kee Allen Begay, Jr. Navajo leadership expressed their concern with the potential cuts to the AHCCCS/ACA programs and discussed the role the program plays in the U.S. fulfilling its trust responsibility for health care to the Navajo Nation. An exemption was requested for Native Americans and their 638 facilities from the Section 1115 Waiver Amendment for services at both federal and state governments. The Gov. Ducey expressed a willingness to review the State's AHCCCS policy and consider the economic circumstances faced by the Navajo Nation.

There is a possibility that the Navajo Nation and other tribes may receive an administrative exemption from some of the cuts coming to the AHCCCS program from the current Arizona 1115 waiver. However, legislation may be required for the State to implement such changes to the AHCCCS program during the 2018 session.

K-12 Funding

The Arizona budget is predicted to be tighter than last year's. The public is increasingly distressed with the performance of the Arizona K-12 system. The Empowerment Scholarship Account bill, which passed last session created a voucher-type system for sending state dollars to private schools and appears to be headed to the 2018 ballot by a referendum petition from education advocates. It will be a major issue if it survives, leading to a possible legal challenge.

In 2000, proposition 301 was passed and provided sales tax money for public education, and it is set to expire in 2020. There are discussions about looking to reenact Prop 301 in 2018. The Legislature could refer such a proposal to voters next session. If it fails, our underfunded schools will see significant cuts.

We have an opportunity to be part of a broader-based effort to support proposals to protect and increase education funding in Arizona in the next session.

Diné College - Navajo Technical University Compact

A draft of the Diné College – Navajo Technical University Compact renewal was recently submitted to the Governor's Office. A meeting is pending to negotiate the details of the compact. The renewal will continue the program, where 15% of TPT earned on the Nation will be used for capital purposes for both Diné College and Navajo Technical University, for the next 20 to 40 years. The flexibility within the extension of the Diné College – NTU compact would allow some of the funds to be used for public safety programs, such as public safety training at both colleges. The amount of funding could also be impacted and is dependent on the future of the Navajo Generating Station.

Transportation

In Arizona, since October 1, 1999 the Navajo Nation has imposed and collected its own Fuel Excise Tax (FET) of \$0.18 cents/gallon for all gasoline sold on the Navajo Nation. In the original Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that was signed in 1999, the State of Arizona has accepted \$0.06 cents/gallon of the \$0.18 cents/gallon, and the Navajo Nation keeps \$0.12 cents of the \$0.18 cents/gallon. Since 1999, the Navajo Nation has collected an average of \$12 million annually from FET in Arizona at locations across the Nation, resulting in over \$60 million in FET since 1999.

A top priority for the "Infrastructure Development & Improvements," is a proposal that will allow the Navajo Nation to keep the State of Arizona's apportionment of the Navajo Nation Fuel Excise Tax (FET) to Navajo Division of Transportation to address direct service delivery of road improvement on the Navajo Nation.

Veterans

In 2016, HB 2323 established the Native American Veterans' Income Tax Settlement Fund, which consists of \$1 million of legislative appropriations and donations. Native American military men and women, living on a reservation but serving in the military, had state income taxes illegally withheld from their checks from 1977 to 2002.

The Department of Justice issued a legal opinion stating it was illegal and the policy was finally changed in 2001, with 2002 being the last year that Arizona withheld those taxes. It is estimated that this affected over 8,000 Native American veterans with about \$2 million improperly withheld from their checks.

The Arizona Department of Revenue is in process to creating a policy and administrative oversight, so when appropriation is made the department can allocate the funds to allow for a process in which Native American veterans can apply for a refund of the taxes that were withheld. Navajo Nation leadership is seeking ways to educate veteran groups across the Navajo Nation of this program and possible compensation.

The deadline for making application of these funds is December 31, 2019.

New Mexico State Legislature

There are a few legislations that may be introduced or reintroduced in the upcoming New Mexico legislative session along with updates on major events that have occurred at the state level that impact the Navajo Nation. These legislations may address the following: overall tax reform, tax gas at the rack, and reform of

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capital outlay process.

Tax Gas at the Rack Legislation

In August, N.M. Rep. James Townsend and N.M. Rep. Carl Trujillo presented to the N.M. Interim Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on a proposal for the gas tax at the rack collection (HB487 & HB509). Tax at the rack legislation is a proposal that would take the tax liability from the gas distributor and move it to the rack (where the distributor fills their tankers), as well as remove the state tax exemption to gas sold at tribal gas stations.

The legislation provided for a tax exemption to tribal members only. The theory behind the legislation is that it would provide additional funding for the State Road Fund and to minimize the tax loss since there are over 150 distributors in the state and only about 10 rack locations in the state.

Rep. Trujillo stated that there are four (4) possible solutions to this issue:

1. Leave it alone and make no changes to the current law.
2. Move tax to the rack and remove tribal deductions, except to tribal members.
3. Move tax to the rack and leave the current tribal deductions.
4. Move tax to the rack and leave the current tribal deductions and add an additional tax across the board, that would be separate and tax all, including tribal entities.

The tribal representatives identified that the tribal exemptions, adopted in 1999 after four years of negotiations, would exempt tribes and nations from the state gasoline tax (not diesel or special fuels) as long as a tribal tax equal to the state tax would be put in place by the tribes. The tribal tax promotes economic development, generates tax revenue from jobs, and improves business gross. The tax revenue to the tribes allows the tribe to invest in its infrastructure by pledging the tax to an NMFA, or other loans.

If the tribal tax deductions were removed from law this could potentially trigger double taxation for gas sold at tribal gas stations, loss of employment if gas stations should close, and loss of tribal revenue, among several impacts.

Utah State Legislature

Below are several issues that the Navajo Nation should continue to monitor. There will be more developments expected within the Utah Legislature before the beginning of the legislative session. Continuous monitoring and updating will be provided as more information is collected.

Human Trafficking

The Navajo Nation Council supported resolution CJY-48-17 amending Navajo Nation Code, Title 17 enacting law against human trafficking. The Utah Attorney General's Office is interested in working with the Navajo Nation and has offered to work with Navajo Nation law enforcement on training and other matters relating to this issue. Utah Rep. Paul Ray may also be introducing a Human Trafficking bill and will be continued to be monitored by the Office of the Speaker.

Speaker's Report

Teacher Bonus Amendments

Utah Rep. Mike Winder is seeking methods that would give bonuses to teachers in high-risk schools. Navajo leadership will work with the sponsor to ensure Navajo educators are included.

Technology/ Coding Education

Technology and Coding education is available in Utah K-12 Schools. Steps on providing coding instruction in the Navajo Schools are being discussed with Technology leaders and legislators. This will be a public private partnership that will require planning with legislature, technology community and Navajo Nation.

American Indian and Alaskan Education Amendments

HB 43, a bill that modifies provisions relating to the education of American Indians and Alaskan Natives. The pilot program is for educators that teach at American Indian and Alaskan Native concentrated schools, with an appropriation of \$250,000 from the State Education Fund.

FirstNet

FirstNet is a Public First Responder Network Authority that provides a public safety broadband, similar to the data service that most people purchase through a commercial carrier, but is dedicated to public safety professionals. FirstNet will work to develop and deliver a network deployment plan that meets the needs of the States that Opt-in.

Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. has been actively involved with the states point of contact and sponsored Resolution NABIS-65-17. There are indications that Utah Governor Gary Herbert will opt-in to the FirstNet Program, with the possibility of legislation in the upcoming legislative session. A joint letter from the Office of the Speaker and Office of the President and Vice President were submitted urging Gov. Herbert to opt-in to the National Program.

The states of New Mexico and Arizona have already opted-in to the FirstNet program.

Speaker's Report

Fourth Quarter Report Program Summaries Fiscal Year 2017

Office of the Auditor General

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Section One: Accomplishments from FY2017 Fourth Quarter

- For FY2017, the Office of the Auditor General issued a total of 52 reports.
- Issued 10 reports in the Fourth Quarter

Program/Chapter audits – 1 report

- 17-52 Unspent Chapter Funds as of June 30, 2017

Follow-up on Corrective Action Plan Implementation – 2 reports

- 17-47 Dennehotso Chapter Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- 17-49 Department of Personnel Management Corrective Action Plan Follow-up

Investigations – 7 reports

- Whitecone Chapter investigation report on the former CSC/AMS
- Discretionary Fund investigation reports on Navajo Nation employees – 6 reports

Section Two: Goals for the 1st Quarter in FY2018 (ongoing projects and activities):

- Tribal Parks Special Review (Monument Valley, Lake Powell, Little Colorado and Four Corners)
- Water Rights Commission Special Review
- Board of Education Performance Evaluation
- Parks and Recreation Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- NOSHA P-card Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- Division of Economic Development P-card Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- NDOT Road Fund Corrective Action Plan 2nd Follow-up
- Hardrock Chapter Special Review
- Tsayatoh Chapter Special Review
- Tohajiilee Chapter Special Review
- Pueblo Pintado Special Review
- Jeddito Chapter Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- Coalmine Canyon Chapter Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- Crystal Chapter Corrective Action Plan Follow-up
- Fraud Investigations of chapters/staff
- Revisits of sanctioned programs and chapters

Issues/Recommendations

- Recommendation to establish a Fraud Hotline to report suspicious activities by Navajo Nation employees and elected officials

Eastern Navajo Land Commission

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Section One: Accomplishments for the FY2017 4th Quarter

- Commission's top priorities (1: NELI-NIIP Project; 2: Resolving on-going matters for FWAD; 3: Documenting Completed Land Buy-Back Program Results; 4: New land purchase opportunities).
- The Commission completed a 96-page report on the results of the NavajoBBP. At total of 38 Navajo allotments were fully sold at 100% which are now considered Navajo Nation trust land. Another 582 allotments are now 51% or more owed by the Navajo Nation as the result of the Navajo LBBP of 2016.
- Fort Wingate Army Depot Land Division: The Commission supported Senator Heinrich's technical amendment for the correct Navajo-Zuni negotiated map.
- The Commission resumed work on the NELI-NIIP Project, having held meetings. The creation of the Nabi NIIP Subcommittee to deal with Federal funding of continuous construction of the NIIP infrastructure has taken priority over the NELI project.

Section Two: Goals for the 1st Quarter in FY2018

- Renew talks with Congressional member on the NELI-NIIP Project
- Begin looking into preparing a new plan for Navajo BBP-II. Another round of the buy-back program will be implemented among 20 tribal areas across the country, including the Navajo Nation.
- Continue any work with requirement compliance under the Fort Wingate Army Depot land division provisions under BIA guidance

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

- Keep on top of federal LBBP to see if there will be purchasing funding will be left over all eligible tribes have participated.
- The NELI-NIIP Project needs to be clarified by the Office of the Speaker as to where the "NELI" part of the project belongs.
- ENLC needs to prioritize ranch purchases in N.M., as it seems, purchases in Colorado and Arizona have taken precedence.

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Navajo Nation Election Administration

Contact Person: Edbert Little, *Executive Director*

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Section One: Accomplishments from 4th Quarter in FY2017

- Election Board members conducted six regular meetings
- Election Board approved 22 resolutions during their regular meetings
- Recommended three amendments to the Navajo Nation Council to Title 11
- Conducted 11 Special Elections to fill 13 elected Positions
- One Program Project Specialist position for Navajo Election Administration
- Four applicants applied for the Sr. Tribal Court Advocate and the interview was conducted by the Navajo Board of Election Supervisors on September 7 and 18, 2017.

Section Two: Goals for 1st Quarter in FY2018

- Work with Navajo Nation Council on Transportation Stimulus Referendum Election on October 24, 2017.
- Continue working on amending Election Laws
- NEA's vacant positions are; Program Project Specialist will be advertised by NNDPM.
- Enforcement of Policies.
- Continue other Goals and Objectives of the Election Administration/Board; implement directives

Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s)

- Election Administration needs funding for a new office building, new voting equipment, and upgrade office equipment.
- Recommend: Fixed cost for all elections in the coming years and in anticipation of 10% budget shortfall and to upgraded NEA.
- Hire a Legal Counsel.
- Four applicants were interviewed by the Navajo Board of Election Supervisor and one was rescheduled twice and he didn't show up for his interview.
- Establish Board and Administration as an independent entity.

Navajo Nation Ethics and Rules Office

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Section One: Accomplishments from 4th Quarter in FY2017

- Interviews for Presenting Officer candidates were scheduled in September to take place the first week of October. The vacant Legislative Assistant position was reclassified to an additional Ethics Investigator as well. During the FY18 budget hearings the Ethics and Rules Office was able to secure a budget that includes an additional Investigator and an Office Aide and a an additional tribal vehicle to assist in completing ethics investigations in a timely manner and to provide training and education to Chapters away from the Ethics and Rules Office. The Ethics and Rules Office processed 19 new cases during the fourth quarter and closed 20 cases; a total of 362 ethics clearances were issued at the request of the Office of Background Investigations, Navajo Gaming Regulatory Office and/or the NN Election Administration. The Ethics Investigators attended training, for the first time in two (2) years, on Fraudulent Financial Statements taught by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. The Ethics Office became active in meeting with other NN department and divisions to collaboratively address the problem of financial misuse of funds by NN officials and employees.

Section Two: Goals for the 1st Quarter in FY2018

- Significant goals for the Ethics and Rules Office in the first quarter of FY18 is to hire a new Presenting Officer in November and also advertise, conduct interviews and fill the additional Ethics Investigator position and the new Office Aide position. A new Plan of Operation needs to be created and approved to include the new positions. A Memorandum of Agreement for more efficient work flow with the Office of the Auditor General, Office of the Attorney General/Chief Prosecutor, Navajo Government Development and Division of Community Development should be developed.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

- Develop changes to the either the Ethics Plan or Operation or OHA Rules to allow the Ethics and Rules Office to place officials on temporary leave or suspension (or apply for an injunction) during active investigations if there is evidence of financial misuse of funds.

Speaker's Report

Office of Navajo Government Development

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Section One: Accomplishments from 4th Quarter of FY2017

- Study on the Effectiveness of the Reduced Navajo Nation Council, entitled "Efficacy Report." The Office finalized the study on the effectiveness of the reduced Navajo Nation Council and was scheduled to be presented to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on August 3, 2017, however, it was deleted off the agenda. The report still needs to be presented to the Naabik'iyati' Committee.
- A web-based survey of Navajo Nation Chapters will be implemented by the University of Essex of United Kingdom and the Office in the winter of 2017. A survey is in the process of being designed. The Office staff made recommendations on its content and questions. While University of Essex provides the expertise in designing, implementing and analyzing large surveys, the Office provides input on survey topics, ethical requirements and advertisement of the survey to chapters.
- The Office of Navajo Government Development (Office) and the Commission on Navajo Government Development (Commission) sponsored a summit on Sustainability and Resilience at Twin Arrows Casino, Twin Arrows, Arizona on August 29 and 30, 2017. Chapter officials, CLUPC and chapter staff attended the summit.
- Council Delegate Walter Phelps requested the Commission and Office to assist him in
- policy development for genetic research. As a result, the Commission and Office attended the Tribal Data Sharing and Genetic Research Policy Development Workshop in Albuquerque, NM on August 30, 31, and September 1, 2017. Since then, the Office researched Tribal laws on human research. In addition, several offices that are involved have been communicating on the subject matter via electronic mail and telephone. On September 11, 2017, the staff attended a public hearing on the matter at St. Michaels Chapter.

Section Two: Goals for the 1st Quarter in FY2018

- The Office will continue to work on updating a booklet on Navajo Nation Government.
- The Office will survey the Navajo people on chapter government at the Northern
- Navajo Fair, Western Navajo Fair and the 2017 Natural Resources Summit. A report will be written on the survey.
- The Office will provide technical assistance as requested by chapters.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

- The Commission and Office has an amended plan of operation. In April 2017, the sponsor requested assistance for drafting of legislation by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

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Section One: Accomplishments from 4th Quarter in FY2017

- Flagstaff Police Officer Training on Navajo Culture: The Commission, Office and Native American for Community Action, Inc. was asked to provide another Navajo Culture Training to its newly hired police officers. The training was held at the Flagstaff Police Department on August 28th.
- Reviewed Citizen Complaints: The Office received new complaints during the second quarter. Intake meetings were conducted and majority of the complaints were staffed for investigations. Majority of issues include predatory automobile sales and employment issues.
- Ensure San Juan County Utah Voting Rights is Address: The Office continues to work on voting rights issues for the State of Utah San Juan County. Currently, the Commission is a complaining party in the matter of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission et al v. San Juan County et al and Navajo Nation v. San Juan County. Both cases surround redistricting the county and school board, and the mail-in ballot issue.
- United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Indian Working Group: The Office met with Civil Rights Division on September 18th in Washington, D.C. Several issues discussed during the meeting are as follows: 1) presentation by the Civil Rights Division on enforcement standards, 2) presentation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Civil Rights Criminal Section on hate crimes, 3) the Navajo Nation's request to the United States Department of Justice on the shooting of Loreal Tsingine, 4) school issues in New Mexico's Gallup-McKinley County School District; and 5) voting rights issues in Utah's San Juan County.

Section Two: Goals for the 1st Quarter in FY2018

- Conduct Public Seminar: Development of advertisement and educational materials on hate crimes, which will be a partnership with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law from Washington, D.C. The hate crime project will be a seminar, and the dates and locations for the seminar will be finalized in the first quarter.
- Study into the Death of Loreal Tsingine: The Commission, in partnership with University of New Mexico Institute for American Indian Research, will convene a panel to inquiry into the death of Loreal Tsingine, the human rights challenges to police, and border town violence against Indigenous women and peoples.
- Continue Receive Complaints: Navajo citizens file complaint about discrimination and human rights violations. Will continue to assess and investigate filed complaints.

Section Three: Issues/Recommendations

- Subcommittee on Sacred Sites: Several internal Navajo sacred site issues come to the commission. While the office is required to coordinate with other Navajo government programs, it continues to

Speaker's Report

be a concern that Navajo individuals raise concerns on sacred sites with the commission while the Navajo Historic Preservation Department ("HPD") statutorily protects all Navajo cultural resources. It is necessary to streamline how the commission and HPD would respond to cultural properties issues.

- Navajo Voting Rights Lawsuits: The office will continue to monitor and assist the attorneys who filed the lawsuit in Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission et al v. San Juan County et al and Navajo Nation v. San Juan County by providing needed information, and keep the plaintiffs updated as they are stakeholders in the lawsuit.

Navajo Nation Labor Commission

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Section One: Accomplishments from 4th quarter of FY 2017

- Efficient use of allocated funds, NNLC held twenty (20) evidentiary hearings
- NNLC and program timely processed three (3) appealed NNLC cases to Navajo Nation Supreme Court
- NNLC program timely processed fifth teen (15) formally filed complaint
- NNLC timely adjudicated fifth teen (15) NPEA cases
- NNLC and program timely closed and issued twelve (12) orders
- NNLC & program timely issued and mailed seven hundred (700) subpoenas and notice of hearings by first class, facsimile and email to counsels of record or parties
- NNLC will continue to adjudicate forty (40) pending NPEA cases
- NNLC program made three (3) audio copies at parties' request

Section Two: Goals for the 1st Quarter in FY2018

- NN Presidential & NNC Health, Education and Human Services appointments of NNLC membership per CJY-42-16
- Efficient use of allocated funds and timely processed appealed NNLC case(s)
- NNLC & program will timely adjudicate NPEA cases
- NNLC & program will timely process formally filed NPEA complaint(s) and/or petition(s)
- NNLC & program will timely issue and close out NPEA cases
- NNLC & program will continue review and amend NNLC Ruled of Procedure
- NNLC & program will continue to preserve substantial rights of all employees and employers in accordance to Navajo Law
- Closure of NNLC cases heard by current sitting NNLC members

Section Three: Issues/Recommendation(s)

- NNLC only received funding for 40 hearings for FY 2017. Additional funds will be needed to adjudicate pending NPEA cases during FY2017. Due to no NNLC appointments, all hearings for October, 2017 were vacated and hearings maybe continued again if there are non by November, 2017.

Navajo Utah Commission

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Section One: Accomplishments from the 4th Quarter in FY2017

- The unified efforts of the Navajo Utah Commission, the Utah Navajo Trust Fund (UNTF), and the seven Utah chapters resulted in the appropriation of \$405,000 from UNTF for Utah Navajo Veterans housing needs. Utah chapter representatives on the UNTF Utah Dine' Advisory Committee approved this allocation in the FY2018 UNTF budget. The Navajo Utah Commission is requesting matching funds from the FY2018 Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration.
- The Navajo Utah Commission completed a funding application seeking \$510,000 from the FY2018 non-chapter Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund (NRF appropriations) to construct six housing units at \$85,000 per unit for the Red Mesa Chapter Waterline Extension Project. This effort will fulfill Red Mesa Chapter's responsibility in providing plumbing facilities for an IHS Waterline Extension Project serving 16 homes at cost of \$523,000.
- The Navajo Utah Commission completed a funding application seeking approximately \$700,000 from the Navajo Nation Capital Projects Management Department (CPMD) for roofing repair and extensive renovation of the Teecnospos Chapter facility. The Navajo Utah Commission has secured \$161,800 in matching from the Utah NRF and will be seeking additional appropriations from UNTF.
- The Navajo Utah Commission and the Aneth Chapter finally obtained a commitment from the Utah Department of Transportation to conduct major rehabilitation for a section of State Road 162 between Montezuma Creek and Aneth, Utah.

Section Two: Goals for the 1st Quarter in FY2018

- The Navajo Utah Commission will prioritize and prepare a position statement regarding tribal issues and concerns for dialogue with Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert during the 2017 Utah Native American Summit in July.
- The Navajo Utah Commission will assist the Red Mesa Chapter in preparing a funding application seeking \$500,000 from the 2018 Utah Navajo Trust Fund (UNTF) Big Project appropriations for the Red Mesa Chapter Administration Project.
- The Navajo Utah Commission will provide justification and advocacy for preserving and protecting capital outlay funds appropriated for the Utah chapters by the Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund (NRF). The Utah NRF will be conducting a review of inactive projects during the next quarter.
- The Navajo Utah Commission will assist Utah chapters with funding application preparation for new funding available from the Utah Navajo Trust Fund and Utah Navajo Revitalization Fund. The two organizations have new funding becoming available in July and October.