



24th Navajo Nation Council

Office of the Speaker

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Arizona Treasurer Provides Intro, Update To Health, Education, Human Services Committee

WINDOW ROCK, A.Z. – In a historic first, State of Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee provided an introduction and update to the Navajo Nation Council Health, Education, and Human Services Committee at their regularly scheduled meeting Monday, July 1, 2019.

An Arizona state treasurer has never before visited the Navajo Nation in their official capacity. Committee members noted that this is a strong first step in building a fruitful relationship with the treasurer's office.



State of Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee presents before the HEHSC meeting July 1, 2019.

Treasurer Yee provided an overview of financial literacy programs her office has pursued and corresponding legislation passed by the state legislature, in addition to looking at ways to broaden the economic development conversation beyond Maricopa County and the Phoenix metro area.

Chair **Daniel E. Tso** (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) focused his remarks on how to collaborate with the state in a manner that recognizes the economic contributions of the Nation in supporting the Arizona economy.

Adding to Chair Tso's remarks, Delegate **Paul Begay** (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K'ai'biit'ó, LeChee, Tonalea) explained that he represents the five chapters surrounding the Navajo Generating Station, which is scheduled to close and begin decommissioning at the end of this year.

"The communities of the northwestern Navajo Nation and northcentral Arizona have contributed and sacrificed much over the course of the last forty years of NGS's operations,"

said Delegate Begay. “We need to work together to chart a path forward for the communities impacted by the closure of NGS.”

“The dialogue with the state treasurer highlights the progress the council has made with our state partners,” stated Delegate **Charlaine Tso** (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa). “We will work with the state to deliver more funding for education, veterans affairs, and more.”

Recently, the treasurer supported SB 1184, sponsored by Senator Sylvia Allen (AZ-LD6), that was signed into law on April 11, 2019. The bill requires financial literacy education as a requirement for high school graduation, impacting public schools on the Navajo Nation.

“Financial education addresses the importance of savings, balancing a checkbook and understanding what it means to carry credit card debt. This basic life skill will now be taught before students enter the real world so that our young people are prepared to manage their money,” said **Treasurer Kimberly Yee**. “They can be successful if they have financial freedom and understand that you can’t spend more than you make.”

Treasurer Yee began her presentation while Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was testifying before the committee.

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