



# 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Budget and Finance Committee approves funding for Black Mesa Chapter North Valley Power Line Project**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Wednesday, the Budget and Finance Committee approved Legislation No. 0044-18, which seeks funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of approximately \$1.5 million for the Black Mesa Chapter North Valley Power Line Project.

The legislation states that the power line project was not included in the Navajo Nation Code Title 12 Capital Improvement Plan because the CIP was rescinded through Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CAP-23-17. The power line project would provide electricity to 26 homes in the North Valley area of the Black Mesa Community.

Recently, Black Mesa Chapter received \$250,000 from Peabody Western Coal Company and passed a resolution to dedicate the entirety of the funding toward the Black Mesa Chapter North Valley Power Line Project. To date, the chapter has contributed nearly \$188,000 of those funds for preliminary assessments, clearances, legal surveys, and other pre-construction costs.

BFC vice chair and legislation sponsor Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Black Mesa, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Pinõn, Whippoorwill) said the chapter's contribution to the power line project indicates they have worked diligently to ensure the project's success.

"I am excited about sponsoring this legislation to provide power to 26 families in a very remote region of the Navajo Nation. It is something I look forward to being realized and benefitting the families in the Black Mesa community," said Delegate Witherspoon.

The chapter stated that they will hire a certified electrician to ensure that each resident has the necessary equipment mounted for final power connection, and that each resident has submitted the required documentation and approvals to receive power at their homes.

BFC members voted 3-0 to approve Legislation No. 0044-18, and moves forward to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee for consideration. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority on the bill.

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