



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Resources and Development Committee supports supplemental funding to complete Shonto convenience store**

**LEUPP, Ariz.** – During a special meeting held on Monday, the Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0108-16, which seeks supplemental funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$947,613 to complete construction of a convenience store, fuel station, and laundromat in the community of Shonto, Arizona.

The legislation also seeks to waive 12 N.N.C. section 820 (I) and section 860 (C), which requires the project to be listed in the Nation’s Capital Improvement Plan. The project is not currently included in the Capital Improvement Plan as approved by the Navajo Nation Council.

According to legislation sponsor Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa’tsis’Áán, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin), who represents the Shonto community, said the chapter has been focusing on developing an economy for Shonto and neighboring communities for the last decade.

“The convenience store is 100-percent Navajo-owned and it’s an opportunity for economic development. It will provide jobs for our children. The store is also a great location to attract tourist traffic,” stated Delegate Daniels.

According to Shonto chapter manager Robert Kee Black Jr., the chapter withdrew 10-acres of land for the convenience store at the southeast corner of U.S. Highway 160 and Arizona State Route 98. He added that construction is 70-percent complete and that the legislation completed the 164 review process.

“The funding will support the completion of the laundromat design and build-out, store, deli, and laundromat fixtures, equipment, furniture, building signage, building security, U.S. postal boxes, off-site sewer design and drawings, and off-site sewer installation,” stated Black.

RDC member Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) asked how the project had been funded to date.

“How was the construction plan project funded and why is there no proper documentation of the 164 review process signatures in the legislation?” asked Delegate Phelps.

Black explained that the Shonto Chapter obtained a grant from the Business and Industrial Development Fund in the amount of \$1.8 million for the building structure, which was supplemented with a loan from a Community Development Financial Institute, and an additional \$300,000 from the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation for the asphalt.

The Resources and Development Committee approved the legislation with one directive to include the proper 164 review process documents with the legislation by a vote of 3-0.

On Wednesday, the Budget and Finance Committee also issued a “do-pass” recommendation with a vote of 2-1 with no amendments. Legislation No. 0180-16 is scheduled to be considered by the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee on Thursday. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for the bill.

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