



Proposed Treaty Between Cherokee Nation and Navajo Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2021



PHOTO: Speaker Byrd and Rob Daugherty of the Cherokee Nation with members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Wednesday, Honorable Speaker Joe Byrd of the Cherokee Nation joined the 24th Navajo Nation Council on Recognition Day of the 2021 Summer Session in Window Rock, AZ. The Cherokee Nation traveled to the Navajo Nation to continue a discussion on a proposed treaty between the two nations, which will exercise their sovereignty to enter into inter-governmental relations to support one another.

“As Tribes who survived the Long Walk and the Trail of Tears, we are survivors,” said Speaker Byrd as he addressed the 24th Navajo Nation Council. “But as longtime allies, if we work together, there’s nothing we can’t accomplish.”

Twenty-five years ago, the proposed treaty began during a discussion between several tribal leaders including Wendell Chino (Mescalero Apache Tribe President), Albert Hale (Navajo Nation President), Ivan Makil (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President), and Brian Wallace (Washoe Tribe Chairman). These former leaders gathered to discuss issues on defending land and water rights, language, culture, commerce and trade.

Recollecting previous visits to the Navajo Nation, Speaker Byrd is appreciative to Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh) and the 24th Navajo Nation Council for the inclusion in this year’s summer session. If the 24th Navajo Nation

Council agrees to the proposed agreement, this will establish an inter-tribal treaty between the two largest tribal nations in the country.

Byrd speaks on the idea of the two great tribal nations merging forces to combat not only post COVID-19 pandemic, but the future health of both tribes.

“The [proposal] talks about what would the world think if two of the largest nations represent close to one million people came together and talked about how we could help each other out in the area of health care, jurisdiction, law enforcement, domestic violence against women,” said Speaker Byrd.

Prior to the proposed treaty renewal, the Cherokee Nation generously donated to the Governor Richardson-Peterson Zah COVID-19 Navajo Families Relief Fund who was able to purchase and deliver Nike shoes to Navajo children.

To show appreciation, both the Navajo Nation and Cherokee Nation presented and exchanged gifts in honor of the continued support for one another.

“On behalf of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, we would like to thank Speaker Byrd of the great Cherokee Nation for your visit, continued support, and gracious words” concluded Speaker Damon. “Our delegation is trying to adapt and seek ways to work together and advocate for each other as sovereign nations to continue to progress forward as successful nations, Ahéhee.”

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