



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Nation applauds Passage of the Build Back Better Act by the U.S. House of Representatives

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PHOTO: Vice Chair Carl Slater at Navajo Division of Transportation in Tse Bonito, N.M. for a bill signing ceremony.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 24th Navajo Nation Council applauds the \$1.7 trillion Build Back Better Act passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday.

According to the White House, the Build Back Better Act will strengthen the social safety net for Americans and boost efforts to lessen the impact of climate change around the world.

“The bill passed by the House of Representatives sends a clear message that our families on the Navajo Nation are a priority and the protection of Níhímá Nahasdzáán, our Mother Earth, is important,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh). “The Build Back Better Act will uplift Indian Country by investing millions of dollars to our pre-kindergarten program, provide more school lunches for our children, and add additional Pell Grant assistance for our college students.”

The Senate plans to pass the Build Back Better Act by Christmas. There is expectation of additional legislative revisions to be made by Senators concerned about paid leave provisions and tax increases.

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Should revisions be made, the Act will require another vote in the House of Representatives in early January.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi shared that the Build Back Better Act passed by the House of Representatives includes the following:

- Universal preschool for 3 to 4 year olds, expanding access to Pre-K education.
- Help with the cost of childcare for more families.
- Four weeks of paid parental, sick or caregiver leave.
- Free school meals for 9 million more students.
- Greater Pell Grant assistance for income-eligible college students.
- Money to bolster affordable housing options and provide rental assistance to low-income households.
- Coverage of hearing aids every 5 years for those on Medicare.
- Extending the child tax credit through 2022 that provides \$300 for children under 6 and \$250 for older minor children monthly.
- Support for in-home and community-based care for seniors and people with disabilities.

The budgetary reconciliation process will continue as legislators push the bill through the Senate with majority Democratic support.

“Now is the time for our Senate delegation to protect the investments made to the health and social well-being of the Navajo people in the Build Back Better Act,” said Council Delegate Carl Slater (Round Rock, Rock Point, Tséché’izí, Lukachukai, Tsaile-Wheatfields). “Treaty obligations from 1868 should never be subject to political maneuvering and must be fully honored by Congress. We need to secure a prosperous future where our land and all living beings are protected from climate change conditions that are evident today. The Navajo Nation has to position itself as a global partner in reducing fossil fuel emissions moving forward.”

According to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, more than half a trillion dollars would go toward shifting the economy away from fossil fuels to renewable energy and electric cars. If passed, the bill would be a historic investment in clean energy jobs in history for the United States.

In a statement from the White House, President Joe Biden said, “The United States House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act to take another giant step forward in carrying out my economic plan to create jobs, reduce costs, make our country more competitive, and give working people and the middle class a fighting chance. Now, the Build Back Better Act goes to the United States Senate, where I look forward to it passing as soon as possible so I can sign it into law.”

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