



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Nation Council supports Kayenta and Dilkon Chapter to Expand Broadband for Communities

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Last week, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council approved Resolution(s) NABIMY-16-22 and NABIMY-17-22, which supports Kayenta and Dilkon Chapter's application to the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration's "Internet for All" Initiative, NTIA is tasked with awarding \$980 million in grants through the Program to tribal governments in order to address the lack of broadband infrastructure in tribal communities.

"Across the Navajo Nation, broadband infrastructure has especially been a concern since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic where many of our Navajo employees, students, and people were left disconnected," said Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Dennehotso, Kayenta, Chííłchinbii'tó). "By developing the region, residents will be able to discover new opportunities for information exchange that will ensure the economic prosperity of Kayenta."

The Kayenta Chapter submitted an application requesting \$6.5 million to develop the Black Mesa and Comb Ridge/El Capitan region as part of Kayenta Chapter's 5-year economic development plan. In addition, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee approved the authorization to build the infrastructure necessary for the "A Resilient Broadband Solution for Kayenta Chapter" project if funds are awarded.

Working in collaboration, Assistant Professor Shundana Yusaf of the School of Architecture at the University of Utah aided in surveying the homes in the region. Additionally, Delegate Brown thanked the Nááts'íilid Initiative, an Indigenous-led and coalition driven Community Development Collaborative dedicated to building the necessary infrastructure in the area.

On behalf of District Seven Chapters (Teesto, Indian Wells, White Cone, Jeddito, Greasewood Springs), Dilkon Chapter submitted an application requesting approximately \$33.2 million for broadband connections to over 10,000 homes in the region.

"Almost all of the families that I represent do not have access to the internet, which has now become a necessity for everyday life," said Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone, Greasewood Springs). "Having high-speed internet has become an essential utility to support the needs of the Navajo Nation and our people."

NTIA is the Executive Branch agency that focuses on expanding broadband internet access for users to continue innovating and creating economic prosperity. By doing so, NTIA is able to address the issues of education, healthcare, and public safety that intersect with broadband connectivity.

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