



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council advocate for Navajo priority issues with New Mexico Governor, legislators, and agencies



Left to right: Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Sen. Shannon Pinto, Speaker Crystalyne Curley, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, New Mexico Secretary of Indian Affairs Josett D. Monette, Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw, and Senior Policy Advisor for Tribal Affairs James Mountain.

SANTA FE, N.M. – On Thursday, Feb. 1, members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council hosted meetings with New Mexico legislators and joined Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren in a meeting with New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to advocate on behalf of Navajo Nation priorities during the state legislative session.

The meetings were facilitated by New Mexico Caucus Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty and provided an opportunity for Council Delegates to have one-on-one discussions with state legislators and the heads of state agencies on issues related to transportation, education, elderly services, New Mexico Capital Projects and Tribal Infrastructure Fund Projects.

“The 25th Navajo Nation Council and the New Mexico Caucus continue to work with New Mexico legislators and the Governor’s Office as a team. We’re here to advocate for tribal equity when it comes to Capital Outlay projects and other issues,” Chair Crotty said. “Today, we discussed several Capital Outlay projects, the Code Talker Museum, funding for Shiprock Judicial Public Safety complex, and how we might be able to utilize surplus army bridges.”

Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Chair Crotty, Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw, and President

Nygren met with Governor Lujan Grisham to collaborate on infrastructure development, early childhood education, and other initiatives.

President Nygren told Governor Grisham that his office continues to partner with the Navajo Nation Council and that he supports the Navajo Nation's priorities adopted by the Naabik'iyati Committee in December.

"The spirit of partnership is what we foster," President Nygren said.

Governor Grisham told the Navajo delegation that she will continue to fight to fund tribal infrastructure projects for all tribes, including the Navajo Code Talker Museum.

"Funding is starting to make its way into the capitol. We're tracking the priorities and I'm fighting," Governor Grisham said.

On Friday, Feb. 2, Speaker Curley and members of the Council met with the leadership from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department and Governor Grisham's Senior Policy Advisor on Tribal Affairs James Mountain to talk specifically about projects pertaining to their New Mexico chapters.

Mountain reiterated that Governor Grisham will fight for the priorities that the tribes have presented.

"Governor Grisham has formed a great partnership with Navajo leadership," he said. "We're here to listen. We want to hear what your needs are."

Council Delegate Steven Arviso said that the New Mexico Caucus will continue to work with state of New Mexico to push their projects forward. Chair Crotty said she looks forward to conversations focused on Navajo Nation transportation issues.

"Our Navajo communities in New Mexico pay taxes and contribute to the economy, not just on the Navajo Nation but in New Mexican municipalities," Speaker Curley said. "We'll continue to push for parity when it comes to funding Navajo Nation priority projects."

The 25th Navajo Nation Council extends its gratitude to all New Mexico legislators who attended the meetings and to Governor Grisham for her continued support.

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