



25th Navajo Nation Council

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **25th Navajo Nation Council advocates at Tribal Interior Budget Council meeting**



**PHOTO:** Speaker Crystalyne Curley said the Navajo Nation remains steadfast in its efforts to ensure that it receives the necessary support and resources to address the needs of the Navajo people.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, along with Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, advocated for federal funding and changes in the federal budget process last week at the quarterly Tribal Interior Budget Council (TIBC) meeting held in Washington, D.C.

The Tribal Interior Budget Council serves as a critical platform for tribal leaders to engage with federal representatives on matters related to budgetary allocations and funding priorities within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and other agencies.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley and Council Delegates Eugenia Charles Newton, Cherilyn Yazzie, Otto Tso, and Nathan Notah participated in discussions focused on the unique needs and priorities of the Navajo people including public safety, transportation, and education.

Delegate Charles-Newton, who chairs TIBC's public safety and justice subcommittee, presented two initiatives including a proposal to lower the age of hiring police officers from 21 to 18 to expand recruitment of Navajo Police Officers. Delegate Yazzie also requested TIBC to support a proposal to eliminate federal funding cap limits for programs that benefit tribes.



**PHOTO: Delegate Charles-Newton presented an initiative to the Public Safety and Justice subcommittee proposing the lowering of the age requirement from 21 to 18 years of age to become a tribal police officer.**

Regarding school safety, Delegate Charles-Newton and Shawna Becenti, who serves as the Head of School for Navajo Preparatory School and a member of the TIBC Education Sub Committee, advocated for \$93 million for School Resource Officers to help protect students at BIE schools located on the Navajo Nation.

During the meeting, the council members underscored the significance of tribal sovereignty and self-governance in decision-making processes regarding resource allocation and policy implementation.

“The participation of the 25th Navajo Nation Council in the Tribal Interior Budget Council Meeting reinforces our commitment to advocating for the well-being and advancement of our communities,” stated Speaker Curley. “We remain steadfast in our efforts to ensure that the Navajo Nation receives the necessary support and resources to address the needs of our people.”

The 25th Navajo Nation Council extends its gratitude to the Tribal Interior Budget Council for providing a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration. The Council will continue to advocate for additional funding and support through Congress for the upcoming fiscal years.

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