



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council reaffirms tribal sovereignty and government-to-government relationship with the federal government



The 25th Navajo Nation Council urges the Trump Administration to respect the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation, and to ensure that tribal interests are protected within the broader policy framework.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 25th Navajo Nation Council stands firm in its assertion of the Navajo Nation’s sovereignty and the unique, government-to-government relationship between tribal nations and the federal government. In response to the recent Executive Orders issued by President Trump related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), the Council emphasizes that tribal nations are not mere racial classifications but distinct, sovereign governments that entered into treaties with the United States.

“The Navajo Nation, like many federally recognized tribes, is grounded in treaties that affirm our status as a political entity with inherent rights and responsibilities. These treaties and agreements establish a sacred trust, and the federal government has a constitutional obligation to uphold these commitments. The fulfillment of this trust responsibility is essential to our people’s well-being,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley of the 25th Navajo Nation Council.

The 1868 Navajo Treaty, also known as the Treaty of Bosque Redondo, recognized the Navajo Nation’s authority to govern itself, establish laws, and choose its leaders. It became a cornerstone for protecting and sustaining Navajo culture, governance, and identity.

In this context, the Navajo Nation reaffirms its call for meaningful consultation on all matters impacting the tribe, consistent with the federal government's obligation to uphold a true nation-to-nation relationship. The 25th Navajo Nation Council urges the Trump Administration to respect the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation, and to ensure that tribal interests are protected within the broader policy framework.

This administration's focus on the DEI Executive Orders must not diminish or mischaracterize tribal nations' political and legal status. The Navajo Nation has worked tirelessly to strengthen its governance and the trust relationship with the federal government, and the Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to this path. As sovereign nations, the Navajo people are not a subject of racial or ethnic categorization, but rather, distinct and autonomous political entities with the right to self-determination.

The recent executive orders, including the shutdown of the Department of Education, could have a profound impact on the Navajo Nation, particularly in relation to the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). Under the Department of the Interior, the BIE administers crucial education programs and funding for Navajo students, including grants for K-12 education, higher education, and special needs services. A shift or closure of the Department of Education could disrupt these essential services, putting at risk the educational resources that support Navajo schools and communities. It is critical that the federal government consults with tribal nations to ensure these vital educational programs continue uninterrupted and that the Navajo Nation's treaty rights and sovereignty are upheld.

The tribal sovereignty of the Navajo Nation stands as a reminder to the federal government of its responsibility to honor and fulfill its treaty obligations. The 25th Navajo Nation Council remains steadfast in its commitment to the protection and advancement of the rights of the Navajo people and all Native American communities.

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