



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2025

President Nygren line-item vetoes \$6.6 million for the Legislative Branch, Speaker Curley introduces legislation to reallocate funding to support legislative jobs

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren has once again line-item vetoed over \$6.6 million for the Legislative Branch including nearly all funding for 28 Legislative Branch employees, undermining the operations of the Navajo Nation government.

On September 25, the Council approved legislation to restore \$8.1 million that had been line-item vetoed from the Legislative Branch within the FY2026 Comprehensive Budget, as well as \$940,000 to support the Judicial Branch. Once again, the President's actions eliminated more than 93 percent of the Legislative Branch's operating budget, which includes funding for the Office of Legislative Services, Office of Legislative Counsel, Office of the Speaker, and the Navajo Nation Council.

Speaker Curley highlighted the disparity in the President's approval of approximately \$236,000 for 28 Legislative Branch employees, while approving \$5.2 million for 40 staff positions within the Office of the President and Vice President (OPVP). The Council has also approved nearly \$300,000 in operational funding for OPVP, which is currently available for use.

"President Nygren continues to neglect his fiduciary and legal responsibility to uphold the best interest of the Navajo Nation," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. "His irrational approach jeopardizes the stability of the Navajo government and harms employees and their families."

Speaker Curley has introduced Legislation No. 0228-25 to reallocate personnel funds from the Office of the Speaker to address the 28 Legislative Branch program jobs that were not fully funded by the President.

The proposed legislation aims to provide short-term funding stability while the Navajo Nation Council continues working toward a long-term solution to restore full funding for the Legislative Branch and all affected employees.

Since taking office, President Nygren has received consistent funding increases, with his office budget growing by more than 68-percent over three fiscal years. Despite these increases, he continues to demand \$1.5 million more.

While the President labels the FY2026 budget as "flawed," he fails to provide any data or performance-based measures to validate his requests for additional funding for OPVP. The Council, by contrast, developed and passed a comprehensive, data-driven budget using three-year expenditure averages and public input gathered through hearings across the Nation.

Despite his full operational budget being approved and available for use, President Nygren's actions have left the Legislative Branch without sufficient funding to operate for the remainder of the fiscal year.

While the President's Office is fully funded for the year, the Council is forced to identify and reallocate valuable resources to keep essential government services running. The imbalance created by these vetoes hinders the Council's ability to perform its responsibilities and deteriorates collaboration across all branches of government.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council has received many chapter and agency council resolutions supporting full funding for the Legislative Branch and calls from the public to oppose increased funding for President Nygren based on ongoing allegations and investigations involving OPVP.

###