



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2016

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Council celebrates passage of historic \$150 million bill for water, economic, and agriculture projects



Photo: Speaker LoRenzo Bates signs Council Resolution CAP-19-16 on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, joined by Budget and Finance Committee chair Council Delegate Seth Damon and members Delegates Tom Chee and Tuchoney Slim, Jr.

WINDOW ROCK – The 23rd Navajo Nation Council celebrated the passage of the Navajo Nation Permanent Fund Income Five-Year Expenditure Plan during a signing ceremony held on Wednesday morning in front of the Council Chamber in the capital of the Navajo Nation. Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) certified Council Resolution CAP-19-16, which was approved by the Council on April 19.

Members from the Navajo Nation Council’s Budget and Finance Committee, the Office of the President and Vice President, and others worked diligently over the course of the past year to

develop the Permanent Fund Income Five-Year Expenditure Plan, which provides \$150 million over the course of five years for water infrastructure development, economic development projects, and agricultural projects.

Speaker Bates said the 23rd Navajo Nation Council has dedicated more funding to infrastructure development and water projects that will bring clean water to many communities and families, than any other time in the history of the Navajo Nation.

“The Budget and Finance Committee led by chairman Council Delegate Seth Damon, took on the challenge over the past year of developing the legislation and project listing, which is projected to create over 400 jobs for our Navajo people, and could potentially bring in as much as \$7 million in tax revenue for our communities,” said Speaker Bates.

Speaker Bates thanked OPVP, and the many divisions, departments and enterprises for their efforts in aiding in the development of the five-year expenditure plan.

The funding for the plan is derived from the accrued income, or interest, earned from the Permanent Trust Fund’s principal balance. This marks the first time the Navajo Nation has approved the use of the interest income from the PTF.

Speaker Bates said the Council would continue to use alternative funding sources to supplement projects by way of securing matching funds such as external dollars, grants, and other sources of capital that will minimize the direct cost for the Nation.

BFC member Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock) praised his Council colleagues, expressing his appreciation for their energy and commitment to changing the perception of the Navajo Nation Council and working towards positive growth of the Navajo Nation.

“The joint effort and planning articulates such accomplishments like this and enables us to move forward with it. We truly thank you for your leadership and concern, and above all, prayers for strengthening our stance as a Navajo Nation government,” said Delegate Chee.

Resolution CAP-19-16 was sent to the Office of the President and Vice President following the signing ceremony. President Russell Begaye will have 10 calendar days to consider the resolution.

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