



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Navajo Nation Council Congratulates New Interior Department Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 10, 2021

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The 24th Navajo Nation Council congratulates the swearing in of Bryan Newland as the new Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Newland, who is a member of the Bay Mills Indian Community (Ojibwe), was confirmed by the U.S. Senate last month and was sworn in by Secretary Deb Haaland in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday.

“Assistant Secretary Newland will be an advocate for Indian Country and the Navajo Nation Council recognizes this historic milestone accomplished under the leadership of Secretary Haaland,” said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Łichíí, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh). “We look forward to a new approach by the Federal Government as it improves the tribal consultation process and works with the Interior Department to address issues from infrastructure development, support for law enforcement, natural resources, and the protection of sacred sites.”

Assistant Sec. Newland’s mission is to engage with Tribes and Tribal communities to support them in advancing their interests with the current administration. With his previous position as an attorney with Fletcher Law PLLC in Lansing, Mich., Newland is able to bring forth his extended knowledge of federal Indian policy to ensure Tribes are able to have a voice with impactful decisions.

“Bryan has worked on behalf of Indigenous peoples and Indian Country for decades. His wealth of experience will advance the Department’s commitment to ensuring Tribes have a seat at the table for every decision that impacts them and their communities,” said Secretary Haaland. “From clean energy projects and economic development to addressing past injustices against Tribal communities, Bryan will lead with the knowledge that we best serve Indigenous peoples when they are empowered to lead their communities.”

Newland’s work with the Navajo Nation can be seen with various members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Navajo Nation Eastern Agency allottees participating in a roundtable discussion back in July.

As the then Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Newland discussed issues of land conservation and energy development in regards to the Chaco Canyon National Historical Park in Crownpoint, NM.

“Congratulations to Mr. Newland on his confirmation as we anticipate the Interior Department to advance the priorities of the Navajo Nation and Indian Country,” said Council Delegate Carl Slater (Round Rock, Rock Point, Tséché’izí, Lukachugai, Tsaille-Wheatfields). “Whether it is renewable energy development or justice issues, we need a willing, honest, and invested federal partner that has our best interest in mind.”

Newland is the former Tribal President of the Bay Mills Indian Community and served as Chief Judge of the Bay Mills Tribal Court. From 2009 to 2012, he served as a Counselor and Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

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