



The Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund Approved

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2021

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh) and the 24th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0110-21, establishing the Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund (NNFRF) and the Expenditure Authorization Process for the American Rescue Plan Act allocation in the amount of \$1,861,554,458.43.

“I am really happy that Legislation 0110-21 passed with overwhelming support. This signals cooperation and working together between the legislative and executive branches for the benefit of our Dine,” said Council Delegate Carl Slater (Round Rock, Rock Point, Tséch’izí, Lukachukai, Tsaille-Wheatfields). “I look forward to the council appropriating projects that will enhance the collective prosperity of the Navajo Nation in the coming months.”

Legislation No. 0110-21, sponsored by Delegate Slater was introduced July 9, 2021. The approved legislation established the NNFRF and the application process thereunder; waiving application of certain provisions of the Appropriations Act to NNFRF funding allows procurements to be processed as emergency procurements. Furthermore, it will establish an NNFRF Office to administer these funds.

The legislation also authorizes reimbursements of Sihasin Fund and Unused Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFb) allocations and appropriations that were funded through the previous CARES-Act funding allocations. This fund will provide central support and regulatory costs upfront to establish the legal, financial and regulatory infrastructure necessary to support NNFRF Expenditure Plans of funding from CARES Fund projects that were approved but not completed.

Amendment one was motioned by Delegate Kee Allen Begay (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain) and second by Delegate Slater to include a Central Agency Council resolution supporting the establishment of a Navajo Nation Fiscal Recovery Fund and the expenditure authorization process. The vote passed 22 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

While the second amendment included language, unused funds unspent by the end of the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 shall be reverted back to the NNFRF and be made available for allocation to other NNFRF projects and services. This amendment passed with a vote of 18 in favor, 4 opposed and 1 abstention

“This approved legislation allows more collaboration between the Legislative and Executive branches, and creates a dialogue for creative ideas to help our communities,” said Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta). “We appreciate the support from President Nez and the Executive branch and we want to continue that progress.”

After a five and a half hour debate, the legislation passed with two amendments included, council ended the final vote 21 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstentions. Legislation No. 0110-21 moves onto the Office of the President and Vice President, awaiting approval. President Nez has 10 days to approve or veto the legislation.

###

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kolton Nephew, Legislative Staff Writer (928) 380-5733
Kyrion Hardy, Public Information Officer (928) 380-5732
nnlb.communications@gmail.com