



Supreme Court Ruling Opens Door to Federal Layoffs Already Impacting Navajo Nation



Photo Caption: The U.S. Capitol Building, where decisions impacting federal workforce policy and tribal programs continue to unfold. Photo by Tim Benally, Navajo Nation Washington Office (May 2025)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Trump administration, allowing it to proceed with layoffs and reorganization efforts from early 2025 across over 20 federal agencies. The decision reverses a lower court decision and enables the Department of Government Efficiency to resume their federal workforce reductions under President Trump's February executive order.

The Navajo Nation is already feeling the impact of federal layoffs. In February, a key FPAC Policy Analyst was let go, and the Department of the Interior is preparing major cuts to BIA staff—potentially delaying tribal consultation, resource management, and land access.

While the legality of the executive order can and will continue to be challenged in court, the Supreme Court's decision allows the federal government to resume reductions-in-force and agency restructuring plans in the interim. This ruling gives agencies like USDA, Interior, and other Navajo federal partners broad authority to eliminate positions and reorganize staff without prior congressional approval.

The ruling signals a potential acceleration in layoffs and restructuring that could disrupt federal services to the Navajo Nation, including agriculture, broadband, education, and environmental restoration. The Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget have instructed agencies to implement multi-phase RIF plans in the coming months.