



Navajo Nation Washington Office Advocates for Nomination to USDA Tribal Advisory Committee



The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., where Congress shapes policies that guide USDA programs across the country. Photo Courtesy of Navajo Nation Washington Office

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This week, the Navajo Nation Washington Office began working with the Navajo Nation to nominate at least one official to serve on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC). This important body advises the Secretary of Agriculture on policies and programs impacting Tribal Nations and Native communities across the country at least twice a year.

The previous Navajo representative on the TAC was the late Dr. Charles “Monty” Roessel, former President of Diné College, who passed away earlier this year. His loss was felt deeply across the Nation due to the decades of leadership and service he provided. Because Navajo makes up roughly one-third of all Native Americans living on reservations, properly filling this seat will ensure that Navajo voices remain central to USDA’s decision-making on agriculture, food security, forestry, and rural development in Indian Country. Further, it is vital that Navajo remain at the forefront of these discussions, as the USDA undergoes a historic reconstruction as an agency by decentralizing their Washington staff to regional offices around the country.

The USDA TAC seeks members with expertise in agriculture, forestry, food systems, and related fields. Eligible nominees must be submitted by an authorized representative of an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or a national/regional organization with relevant expertise. Nomination packages, including a nomination letter, resume, and USDA background information form, are due by September 22, 2025.