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PRESIDENT JONATHAN NEZ
VICE PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER



STATE OF THE NAVAJO NATION ADDRESS

2019 FALL NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL SESSION



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Navajo Thaw Implementation Plan

On October 14th, the Nez-Lizer Administration and Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office Executive Director Robert Black Jr., announced the launch of the Navajo Nation's partnership with Native Builders LLC and Building Communities to address infrastructure, community, and economic development of nine Navajo chapter areas including Bodaway-Gap, Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Coppermine, Kaibeto, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tonalea, and Tuba City located in the area commonly known as the Former Bennett Freeze Area.

As we move the Nation forward, we no longer refer to the nine communities as the 'Former Bennett Freeze Area' due to the negative connotation associated with former Indian Affairs Commissioner Robert Bennett. We should not continue to use his name to represent our communities, but we should refer to these communities as an area of empowerment and recognize its great potential. This area has been over-studied so we all know what the problems are. Now is the time to create solutions and work together to improve our communities.

This partnership allows the nine chapters to identify their strategies, initiatives, projects, and priorities to address in a detailed plan, known as the "Navajo Thaw Implementation Plan." The investment plan will leverage the collective power and energy of the chapters to secure funding and development within the area.

In January, we met the area residents during an open meeting near the Black Falls community and many shared concerns over homesite leases, housing, water and power lines, uranium contamination, emergency assistance for veterans, land boundaries, economic opportunities, and others.

The "Navajo Thaw Implementation Plan" will begin with a two-day intensive planning session with each chapter and produce a chapter-specific implementation plan. A regional implementation plan is expected to be completed by March 2020.

As detailed in the Navajo Thaw Implementation Plan, the Navajo Thaw promises to bring the people of the region together at the Chapter level to identify their strategies, initiatives, projects, and priorities that will lead to better economic conditions and higher quality of life.

