



The Navajo Nation
Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees

DR. BUU NYGREN *PRESIDENT*
RICHELLE MONTOYA *VICE PRESIDENT*

September 13, 2024

Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
Office of the Speaker
Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390 Window Rock, AZ 86515

Dear Honorable Delegates of the 25th Navajo Nation Council,

I am compelled to express the urgency and seriousness of the current fiscal situation facing our Nation. Over the past several months, I have persistently advocated for the passage of a comprehensive budget for FY 2025, one that honors input from the Three Branch Chiefs. My commitment to ensuring the financial stability of our Nation, the well-being of our employees and continuance of direct services we offer is at the forefront of my advocacy.

The lack of a comprehensive budget is not merely an administrative inconvenience; it poses a tangible threat to the functioning of our government and the livelihoods of our people. In preparation for the possibility of this scenario, my Chief of Staff – exercising his fiduciary responsibility – directed all divisions to prepare for potential layoffs, furloughs, and other impacts in accordance with the Council-approved Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual. This decision was made with a heavy heart but is something I have made attempts to avoid given my repeated efforts to work with the Council. Many people depend on their jobs to support their family, however the lack of a budget or continuing resolutions creates uncertainty that undoubtedly impacts staffing and program operations.

The Budget & Finance Committee publicly promised the people on KTNN Radio that a continuing resolution would be introduced yesterday, September 12. Unfortunately, as of this moment, no such legislation has been forthcoming. This delay exacerbates the already precarious situation we face and increases the risk of a fiscal catastrophe. I urge the Council to act with the necessary expedience and diligence to introduce and either an FY 2025 Comprehensive Budget or a short-term continuing resolution immediately. The future stability of our Nation and the welfare of our people depend on swift and decisive action.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I remain committed to working collaboratively to resolve this issue and ensure that our Nation continues to thrive.

Sincerely,

Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION