

Talking Points-President Shelly

- Welcome to the Navajo Nation, we hope you will enjoy your time here and thank you for the time to present the Navajo Nation Gaming Compact.
- This has been a **long, tough and challenging** initiative for the Navajo Nation. We were **very disappointed** that our Compact was not placed on the Senate floor for consideration during the 2013 session.
- We began these negotiations almost **five (5) years** ago with Governor Bill Richardson's administration. For five (5) years, the Navajo Nation has been diligent in seeking amendments, including an extension to the term of the Navajo Nation Gaming Compact.
- This extension to the term of the Compact is very important to the Nation because we are new to gaming and a developing Gaming Industry so an extension on the term is important for third-party financing.
- In 2008, this facility, Fire Rock Navajo Casino was the first casino opened by the Navajo Nation. It has created over **400 jobs** for our Navajo people and produced revenue for the Navajo Nation Government.
- We have since opened Flowing Water, our Class II facility, located in Hogback, in 2009 and Northern Edge in Upper Fruitland, in 2012.
 - Our Casinos have created 950 jobs with 90% of these employees being Navajo people.
 - It has also allowed some of our employees to return to the Navajo Nation and be with their families.

- With the five (5) casinos under the proposed Compact, we will **create more jobs** and provide more **revenue to the Navajo Nation**.
- The Navajo Nation's current unemployment rate is at 50% with a per capita income of less than \$8,000 a year. We are **struggling** and **need economic development and employment**.
- This is why **the jobs and revenues from our Navajo casinos are more important** than ever **before**.
- The Navajo Nation may be new to Gaming, but the Nation's Gaming Industry has proven successful, and we want to **continue that success**.
- This is the first Compact the Navajo Nation has negotiated with the State of New Mexico. We are aware of the criticism and controversy surrounding our Gaming Compact.
- Please keep in mind the Navajo Compact was negotiated by the Navajo Nation for the benefit of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo People.
- We know terms, such as Free Play are concerning, but this compact is not binding to these other tribes, this is the Compact between the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico.
- We have less than 2 years before the Compact will expire on June 30, 2015.
- If the Compact expires, this would devastate the Navajo Nation, financially the slot lease agreements and contracts would be placed in jeopardy and could cause the closure of our Casinos and job loss for our Navajo People.

- We cannot allow Gaming to terminate. We have approximately \$200 million invested in our Casinos, but more importantly over 950 people will lose their job.
- As President of the Navajo Nation I ask this Committee to support the Navajo Nation's Compact and help the Nation to obtain approval at the next 2014 legislative session.