

## Talking Points-Speaker Naize

- Good Afternoon, welcome to the Navajo Nation and for the opportunity to discuss the Navajo Nation Gaming Compact.
- This is the first Compact the Navajo Nation has negotiated with the State of New Mexico.
  - This endeavor began in 2003 when the Navajo Nation signed onto the “2001 Gaming Compact”.
  - During Governor Bill Richardson’s negotiations in 2007 the Navajo Nation had not developed a Gaming Enterprise or any definite plans for gaming development.
- With the opening of the first casino in 2008, the Navajo Nation realized the expiration date, 7 years away, would impact our ability to find outside financing and for future development plans.
- As mentioned by the President, the Navajo Nation began sending letters to the State requesting negotiations, beginning on March 11, 2008.
- With the opening of Northern Edge Navajo Casino, amendments to the Compact became necessary.
- The Navajo Nation’s Gaming Compact will expire on June 30, 2015. With less than two (2) years before the expiration of the Compact, time is of the essence.
- We will not allow for Gaming to terminate under any circumstances. Our Gaming Industry is too important to the future of our Government and our People

- The Navajo Nation needs this Compact approved in order for the Nation to continue to develop its economy.
- We have negotiated and approved:
  - Terms and conditions for the benefit of the Nation and the Navajo People; and
  - These terms are consistent and fulfills the intent of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act by promoting our economic development, creating self-sufficiency and allowing for a stronger tribal government.
- This Compact is not binding on any other tribe, it is an agreement between the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico.
- The Compact is ready to be moved to the House and Senate floor for a vote at the beginning of the 2014 session.
- As Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, I ask for your support.