



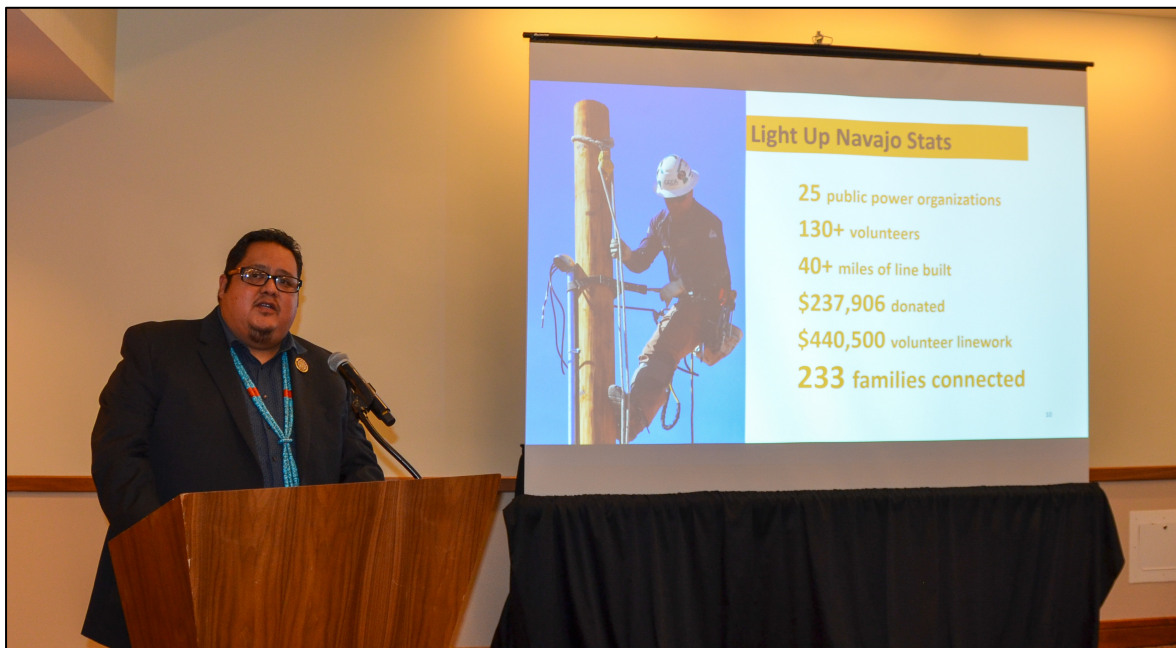
24th Navajo Nation Council

Office of the Speaker

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Speaker Damon Thanks Light Up Navajo Participants for their Support at National Conference



Speaker Seth Damon thanks utilities that participated in the Light Up Navajo initiative at the American Public Power Association Conference in Austin, TX.

AUSTIN, Texas — On behalf of the Navajo Nation and the 24th Council, Speaker Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) thanked the participants of the Light Up Navajo initiative at the American Public Power Association conference in Austin, Texas June 11.

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority organized the initiative to connect 233 homes on the reservation to the electric grid under the leadership of CEO Walter Haase. While serving as chairman of the APPA, Haase informed APPA member utilities that 15,000 homes on the reservation lack electricity. He solicited help from utilities in a fashion similar to the mutual relief efforts utilities extend to each other after natural disasters.

On June 5, the Naabik'íyáti Committee passed resolution NABIJN-30-19, sponsored by Speaker Damon, expressing the thanks of the Nation to the 28 utilities that volunteered labor and equipment to the initiative. Many donors also contributed to the effort as well.

“When the Council considered the legislation to thank your efforts, the delegates spoke – literally for several hours – about how impactful your work was and is to their communities,” stated Speaker Damon.

Speaking to the APPA and the participant utilities, Speaker Damon conveyed the stories delegates shared with NTUA leadership at the June 5 consideration of the appreciation legislation.

“Some stories were funny, yet endearing, like the family who just couldn't break the habit of walking around with flashlights at night because they forgot they now had electric lamps,” said Speaker Damon. “And some stories were plain joyful, like the family who, with their new electric refrigerator, immediately went to the convenience store, to purchase popsicles for their children.”

“Because of your work, there are hundreds of children who will not have to ask their parents for flashlight batteries to complete their homework,” said Speaker Damon. “I ask, on behalf of the Nation, that when NTUA raises the call to help our people again, you send your workers. We will not forget your work and we are eternally grateful.”

Office of the President and Vice President Chief of Staff Paulson Chaco represented President Jonathan Nez at the ceremony.

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