



Council applauds Department of the Interior approval of the 2021 Arizona Gaming Compact amendments and agreements

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Friday, the 24th Navajo Nation Council was informed the United States Department of the Interior’s decision to approve the amended and restated 2021 Arizona Gaming Compact between the Navajo Nation and the State of Arizona.

“This new compact will preserve the Navajo Nation’s right to conduct well-regulated gaming until 2048 and we are looking forward to seeing the benefits it will have for Navajo jobs and revenue,” said Speaker Damon. “We thank President Nez and Vice President Lizer for working positively with the Council in a manner that helped ensure a successful compact process over the last few years.”

The Navajo Nation and state are required to enter gaming compacts to outline approved gaming activities under the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The new gaming compact recently passed Arizona State legislation Apr. 15 and permits the use of off-reservation mobile event wagering or “sports betting.” With up to 10 mobile event wagering licenses available to Arizona Tribal Nations, Navajo gaming could now expand certain operations beyond the borders of the Navajo Nation.

Additionally, the compact provided a trust fund to provide economic benefits to non-gaming Tribal Nations in Arizona while working to mitigate the negative impacts of current authorized gaming operations such as gambling addiction.

Expanding available gaming opportunities for Tribal Nations was among the Navajo Nation Council’s 2016 renegotiation priorities along with an extended compact period, protection of in-state tribal gaming, improving the maintenance of revenue share payments required by the compact and an extension of transfer pool agreements.

Speaker Damon noted a special thanks to the Naabik’iyáti’ Gaming Subcommittee, the Resources and Development Committee and the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise contributions to the compact’s passage.

Chairwoman of the Naabik’iyáti’ Gaming Subcommittee Charles-Newton added, “We were privileged to carry on the groundwork for this longstanding and momentous achievement from members of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council. We were also encouraged to see all 19 participating tribes come to a consensus that will not only benefit our communities but to Arizona’s economy for decades to come.”

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