



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2025

25th Navajo Nation Council joins Governor Hobbs for State of the State Address to tribal leaders



Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs (left), Delegate Arbin Mitchell (center), and HEHSC Vice-Chair Germaine Simonson discuss tribal priorities at the 30th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Leaders' Breakfast.

PHOENIX, Ariz. – On Wednesday, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs delivered the State of the State address before the tribal leaders gathered at the 30th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Leaders Breakfast, held at the Hyatt Regency in Phoenix, Ariz.

Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council attended the event, which marked the second time Governor Hobbs has presented the State of the State address to tribal nations and leadership. In her speech, she emphasized several key priorities, including strengthening government-to-government consultation and investing in initiatives to support the repatriation of Native American remains and artifacts. She also highlighted the need for funding to address critical issues such as tribal housing, food security, and programs benefiting women and children in the Navajo Nation.

On the topic of tribal consultation, Governor Hobbs noted that one-third of Arizona's landmass is comprised of tribal nations. "I made the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs a priority and implemented an eight-year continuation of the office through 2032. While I'm governor, I'll prioritize investments in tribal communities to close the disparity gaps."

Governor Hobbs further outlined efforts to address infrastructure gaps, including expanding broadband access and improving transportation systems. She also discussed plans to enhance border security to reduce the flow of illegal drugs into Arizona, establish a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) alert system similar to Amber Alerts, and advance tribal water rights.

Regarding water rights, Governor Hobbs emphasized the importance of incorporating tribal perspectives in water policy decisions. "We'll make sure you have a seat at the table in advancing tribal water rights settlements," she said.

The governor also addressed the implementation of an MMIP alert code, specifically for emergencies that don't meet Amber Alert criteria. "We need to end this crisis," Governor Hobbs stated.

On Tuesday, Speaker Crystalyne Curley met with Governor Hobbs to present an overview of the Nation's legislative priorities for Arizona's 57th Legislature. During their meeting, Speaker Curley expressed gratitude for the governor's support of Navajo issues and initiatives.

"The 25th Navajo Nation Council appreciates Governor Hobbs' support of the Northeastern Arizona Indian Water Rights Settlement, which benefits all tribes and stakeholders involved," Speaker Curley said. "It's been great to serve alongside you. Thank you, Governor."

###