

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



March 11, 2019

New Mexico State Representatives
54th New Mexico State Legislature
490 Old Santa Fe Trail
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable Representatives,

We issue this letter in support of SB489, Energy Transition Act, sponsored by Sen. Candelaria and co-sponsored by Speaker Egolf, Sen. Stewart and Rep Small. This legislation allows for a utility to recover abandonment costs of an electric generating facility, more particularly, this addresses the closure of the San Juan Generating Facility, near Farmington, New Mexico.

The closure of this facility affects a large number of Navajo citizens that work at the generating facility or at the accompanying coal mine as well as being the tax base of Central Consolidated Schools District. We also support a set aside of funds for economic and workforce development opportunities for Navajos adversely affected by the facility closure.

In SB489, there is a requirement that replacement resources with a capacity of 450 megawatts be constructed in the school district affected. The replacement resources also will be subject to local property taxes or a binding commitment to make and equivalent payment in lieu of taxes.

The legislation also provides funding through an energy transition economic development fund as well as an energy transition displaced worker fund and also a fund to go to the NM Indian Affairs Department. These funds will be dispersed in the area through community and tribal consultation to the community and the workers in the affected area.

On behalf of the Navajo Nation, thank you for your consideration and we look forward to continuing to build a strong partnership with each of you. Ahéhee'.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Nez".

Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION