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For Immediate Release

Navajo President Shelly Urges Lawmakers to Pass a Clean Spending Bill

SHIPROCK, N.M.—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly strongly urged the U.S. House of Representatives to pass a clean spending measure that would stop the federal government shutdown.

The president said it must be done and that a continued piecemeal approach is not right and is hurting the Navajo people.

“The current piecemeal approach House Republicans are using to fragment tribal communities from the rest of the country is insulting. Tribal Nations, like the majority of Americans want a comprehensive resolution,” said President Shelly.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is furloughing roughly a third of its workers, most of whom live in tribal regions and serve Native people daily.

“Our funding for basic programs that provide support to working families will soon dry up. And nearly 3,000 employees who work on Indian Affairs for Interior will be furloughed. We strongly urge GOP leaders to work with the true majority in the House: the bipartisan group of lawmakers that stands ready to restart the government. Allowing a vote on a clean funding bill is the right way to help our tribes and our communities move forward,” President Shelly added.

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