

Request:

Given Coppermine Chapter's **non-certified** status, the Chapter acknowledges that any agreement involving third-party collaboration must be reviewed and authorized by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice. Therefore, we respectfully request the DOJ's assistance in drafting an MOU between the following parties:

- Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office (NHLCO)
- Navajo Hopi Solidarity
- Coppermine Chapter

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will formalize the collaboration and ensure compliance with the Navajo Nation's policies and protocols.

Next Steps:

Please advise if additional documentation or clarification is required to initiate this process. A separate memorandum will follow regarding the Chapter's request to reallocate **\$100,000 in Navajo Hopi Rehabilitation Trust Fund** resources to support building materials in lieu of labor costs.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support in addressing the urgent needs of our Former Bennett Freeze communities.

Cc: Honorable Helena Nez-Begay, NHLC Member
Navajo Hopi Land Commission Members
Kriss Beacher, Chief of Staff
Katherine Belzowski, Deputy Attorney General
Debora Saliego, President, Coppermine Chapter
Chris Paul Benally, Community Service Coordinator, Coppermine Chapter
NHLCO Chrono Files

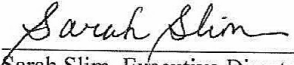


The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMO

TO: Cynthia Freeman, Attorney Candidate
Navajo Nation Department of Justice

FROM: 
Sarah Slim, Executive Director
Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office

DATE: Thursday, June 12, 2025

SUBJECT: **Request to Draft MOU Between NHLCO, Navajo Hopi Solidarity, and Coppermine Chapter**

Purpose:

This memorandum serves as a formal request for assistance from the Department of Justice to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office (NHLCO), Navajo Hopi Solidarity, and Coppermine Chapter (non-certified). The purpose of this MOU is to outline the roles and responsibilities of each party in coordinating housing-related assistance for residents in the Former Bennett Freeze Area.

Background:

Coppermine Chapter has expressed full support for engaging Ms. Mary Francis and her organization, *Navajo Hopi Solidarity*, to assist with home repair and construction efforts in the Former Bennett Freeze Area. Ms. Francis has volunteered her organization's labor and manpower at no cost to the Chapter.

The Chapter proposes that the **Escrow Funds for \$211,126.65**, allocated through NHLCO, be used strictly for the **purchase of home-building materials**. No portion of these funds will be used to pay for labor, as that will be provided voluntarily by Navajo Hopi Solidarity.

Justification:

Coppermine Chapter continues to face significant delays in community infrastructure projects due to difficulties in recruiting skilled labor, accessing remote sites, and expanding project needs (e.g., electricians, plumbers). Partnering with Navajo Hopi Solidarity addresses these challenges while advancing the Chapter's priority to assist Former Bennett Freeze residents.

Additionally, the Chapter has authorized its **Former Bennett Freeze Committee (FBFC)**—a group comprised of residents from the impacted area and all Chapter officials—to work in direct collaboration with Ms. Francis' organization. The FBFC will conduct home assessments and determine community needs in the affected areas.