## LAWRENCE T. MORGAN

Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council



October 3, 2006

## Open Letter of Invitation

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, I am extending an open invitation to Native Peoples of the World, and to all who work to support the rights and well-being of Native People, to attend a historic event — the Indigenous World Uranium Summit and Nuclear Free Future Awards Ceremony, to be held at the Navajo Nation Museum & Library in Window Rock, Arizona from November 30 through December 2, 2006.

The Navajo Nation is honored to co-sponsor this event with grassroots and non-governmental organizations that have worked hard to bring justice to Native Peoples who have suffered, and continue to suffer, at the hands of the uranium industry. Everyday, more of our elders and medicine people who are former uranium workers pass to the Spirit World, casualties of mankind's flirtation with atomic weapons and nuclear energy.

Everyday, radiation exposure compensation is denied to the survivors of these brave men and women and to the victims and families of above-ground nuclear blasts. Everyday, scientists work with community members to investigate the effects of uranium mining on our lands, waters and the health of our People. Still, we have few answers about the causes of the mysterious illnesses that were not seen before uranium mining began in the 1940s. Other than these pervasive impacts to our natural resources, economy and health, we have little sustainable benefits to show for more than 50 years of uranium development.

The Indigenous World Summit was established to discuss these issues and to find ways to approach the problems created by uranium development. It is our hope that this process will create new hope for the world. To succeed, it will require the prayers of the world and a belief that what may seem unimaginable is, in fact, possible!

We need your commitment to participate in this process with a spirit of conviction, openness, and forbearance. Your commitment, and mine, honors what we believe in as individuals, and it also reaches beyond ourselves to seek a common ground. When we achieve this unity, we transform the world. I have committed myself to this spirit and this process, and I invite you to join us in this important work.

For more information on the Summit and the Awards Ceremony, please contact Summit Co-Coordinator Hazel James at the Dineh Bidziil Coalition, (928) 773-4335 or (928) 606-1891.

Sincerely.

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Lawrence T. Morgan, Speaker 20<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL