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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Supervisor Alton Joe Shepherd's statement on the passing of Former U.S. Senator Pete Domenici

WASHINGTON — Pete Domenici, the longest-serving U.S. senator in New Mexico's history died today at the age of 85. Domenici, served 36 years as a U.S. senator from New Mexico and was very highly respected by the Navajo people. Senator Domenici was a staunch advocate for Native Nations across the country but was also very fond of the Navajo Nation and vigorously fought for projects that benefitted the Navajo people. "On behalf of my family and the residents of Apache County District 2, we are deeply saddened by the loss of a great leader and dedicated advocate for the Navajo Nation."

"Senator Domenici worked hard for the communities and members of the Navajo Nation in the expansion and improvement of services where services were little to none. He dedicated himself to assist and strengthen these areas for the Navajo people."

"I remember when my father, Ambrose Shepherd was a Navajo Council Delegate and the Apache County Supervisor, he worked hard with Senator Domenici to seek funding for the Ganado Lake Reservoir Rehabilitation Project and they were successful in obtaining the funding to restore the reservoir for the Nation." ~ Alton Joe Shepherd

"As a Navajo leader and Apache County Supervisor, I am grateful for the honor, dedication, commitment, and public service of Senator Domenici. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Domenici and will miss his dedication to our Navajo members who are residents of both the Navajo Nation and surrounding states."

"In closing, my thoughts and prayers are with the Domenici family at this difficult time. I hope you will be consoled by your cherished memories and comforted by the presence of family and friends."

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