

News Release

National American Indian Housing Council



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAIHC Applauds AMERIND's 20th Anniversary

Washington DC—November 7, 2006—The Chairman of the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) recognized the 20th anniversary of AMERIND Risk Management, a tribally owned company, in remarks made during AMERIND's annual meeting in Phoenix last week. **Marty Shuravloff, NAIHC Chairman**, who is also Executive Director of **Kodiak Island Housing Authority** in Alaska, said "AMERIND provided property asset coverage for tribal housing on reservations when no one else would."

"It was back in 1986 that NAIHC responded to limited and prohibitively expensive insurance rates for Indian housing by incorporating a non-profit, self-funded Indian housing risk pool and AMERIND was created," said **Shuravloff**. "AMERIND provides critical services to tribes and tribal housing organizations. But most importantly, you provided a service to tribes when no one else would. Congratulations on 20 years of helping Indian people protect their assets."

This celebration of AMERIND's anniversary is particularly fitting **since November is Native American Heritage Month**, said **NAIHC Acting Executive Director Dennis Daniels**. "NAIHC recognizes that AMERIND is a strategic partner that represents the goals of self-determination that are so important to Indian Country. We want to salute them as they celebrate their 20th year."

Natural Disasters Highlight Need

"Natural disasters in recent years have reminded Indian Country how valuable **AMERIND's** service is [to Indian Country]. Some of that reminder, unfortunately, was by virtue of **people not being protected** in the wake of wildfires and hurricanes Katrina and Rita—due to their tribe's lack of federal recognition or other factors," **Shuravloff** said. "Like NAIHC, AMERIND will continue to succeed by being the champion of **safe and secure living and working conditions for 100 percent** of our people."

While AMERIND is protecting tribal housing investments worth more than \$7 billion and growing, NAIHC continues to promote capacity building through its technical assistance and training programs and its promotion of Native homeownership, said Shuravloff, a member of the **Leisnoi Village** in Alaska. **Recent national lender data does indicate slight gains in homeownership rates for Native Americans**. These gains can be attributed, in part, to the homebuyer counseling and mortgage finance training that NAIHC provides, said Shuravloff.

Since 1974, NAIHC has worked to promote decent, safe, and culturally relevant housing in Indian Country, and make it affordable. At the same time, NAIHC has worked to help break down the barriers to homeownership for Native Americans on tribal lands. Current efforts for homeownership include the new website: www.nativeamericanhomebuyer.com; newly launched seminars including "Planning for Homeownership" and "Utilizing Individual Development Accounts for Homeownership" as well as continually growing and expanding the Pathways Home train-the-trainer program for Indian housing authorities.

"Working with friends and allies, we will make better living conditions in all American Indian and Alaska Native communities," said **Shuravloff**. "That should be and is the vision and mission of both AMERIND and NAIHC."

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NAIHC assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages.

NAIHC... "A Tradition of Native American Housing" www.naihc.net