



Media Release

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Tribal Leaders Testify On Indian Housing

Washington, DC—Paul Lumley, Executive Director of the National American Indian Housing Council testified today before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Mr. Lumley, a citizen of the Yakama Nation, expressed his and the NAIHC membership's hope for the Reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

The Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is the primary Federal legislation meant to provide for housing development on Indian reservations, Alaska Native villages and for Native Hawaiian peoples. Mr. Lumley described the successes of the Act and several recommendations for improvement, including a request for a minimum funding amount of \$750 million for the 567 Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages across the country. Currently, the funding component of the NAHASDA, the Indian Housing Block Grant, is proposed to be funded at \$627 million for Fiscal Year 2008.



John Yellow Bird Steele (l) and Paul Lumley (r)

Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, remarked about the need for more Indian Housing resources, saying Indian people had been “left behind in the American dream.” He commented on the testimony of John Yellow Bird Steele, President of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, who described the needs of his people by saying they “want to live like every other person” in this Country in decent, affordable housing.

Other panelists testifying before the Committee included George Rivera, Governor of Pojoaque Pueblo from New Mexico; Juell Burnette, Program Director of the Wells Fargo Native American Housing Initiatives; Dr. Jon Perez, Director of Behavioral Health for the Indian Health Service and Orlando Cabrera, Assistant Secretary, Office of Public and Indian Housing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Congress will decide on the reauthorization of NAHASDA in the months to come. Please visit the NAIHC website for more information and to read the testimony in full.

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The **National American Indian Housing Council** 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. “A Tradition of Native American Housing”

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