

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: Paul Lumley 202-789-1754
plumley@naihc.net**FINANCIAL SERVICES MOVES SWIFTLY ON NAHASDA**

Washington DC -- Members of the House Committee on Financial Services, under Chairman Barney Frank, today praised HR 2786, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007, and favorably reported it out of Committee.

“Clearly, we must reauthorize this essential program before it expires. HR 2786 is an excellent bill,” said Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif. “I am pleased to co-sponsor it.” Waters also thanked Chairman Frank, D-Mass., Ranking Member Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., and co-sponsors, Rep. Dale Kildee, D-Mich., and Rep. Steve Pearce, R-New Mex., for the bi-partisan work crafting the bill. Waters is also Chairwoman of the Housing and Community Opportunity Sub-Committee which held a hearing on June 6.

Waters, highlighting the need for more Indian housing funding, added, “Like so many of our housing programs, NAHASDA has been underfunded in recent years.”

Rep. Melvin Watt, D-N. Car., also rose in strong favor of the bill. “If there is ever an area of housing that cries out for even greater need than in some of our low income communities, it is Native American housing,” he said

Chairman Frank, and co-sponsor of the bill, believes the case for increased funding can be made so that economic development, which goes hand in hand with housing, can be furthered on Indian reservations.

“NAHASDA’s reauthorization out of mark up is a milestone for our tribal housing entities that need more flexibility to administer their unique programs,” said Marty Shuravloff, Chairman of the National American Indian Housing Council. “We greatly appreciate support shown by Congress today to meet the dire housing needs of Indian Country.”

HR 2786 is the second major Indian housing-related bill approved by Frank's committee this year with HR 1676 signed into law by President Bush on June 18. That bill, sponsored by Mr. Boren, reauthorized the section 184 loan guarantee program under which Indian families are able to purchase their own homes.

Rep. Dan Boren, D-Okla., Rep. Rick Renzi, R-Ariz., and Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., are also co-sponsors of the legislation at press time. HR 2786 is expected to go before the full House in September.

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The National American Indian Housing Council is a national non-profit organization that assists tribes and tribal housing entities reach their goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native Villages.