



# National American Indian Housing Council

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Senate Confirms Shaun Donovan as HUD Secretary**

**Washington DC** – On Thursday January 22, 2008, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Barack Obama's nomination of Shaun Donovan as Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) applauds Mr. Donovan's confirmation and is eager to work closely with Mr. Donovan and HUD officials on housing issues of Native American, Alaskan Native, and Hawaiian Native communities throughout the country.

NAIHC Chairman Marty Shuravloff (Executive Director of the Kodiak Island Housing Authority) said of Mr. Donovan's confirmation, ". . . *we are very excited about Mr. Donovan's appointment and we look forward to working with HUD in improving the lives and living conditions of this country's First Americans, many of whom live in conditions usually associated with third world countries.*"

Donovan, formerly Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), is also a former Clinton Administration HUD official where he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing, the primary federal official responsible for privately-owned multifamily housing. He also served as acting FHA Commissioner during the Clinton presidential transition period.

In October, President Bush signed the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). NAHASDA's reauthorization contains several amendments that enhance tribal self determination. NAHASDA is administered through HUD and it's Office of Native American Programs (HUD/ONAP). Because of the unique government-to-government relationship between tribes and the U.S. Government, many of these amendments call for direct consultation between HUD/ONAP and tribes in developing the regulations on how NAHASDA is implemented, a process is known as "Negotiated Rulemaking."

*"As we move forward in the Negotiated Rulemaking process, it's very important that we do so in the spirit of cooperation and respect with the ultimate outcome of improved housing conditions for native people and their communities. And who is better equipped to determine the needs of each community than the people who live there – this is what self determination is about,"* said Paul Lumley, NAIHC Executive Director.

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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, Alaska Native villages and Native Hawaiian Communities.*

NAIHC... "A Tradition of Native American Housing" [www.naihc.net](http://www.naihc.net)