



National American Indian Housing Council

News Release

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President Signs NAHASDA Reauthorization Bill

Washington DC – Today, the President of the United States signed into law H.R. 2786, an Act of Congress to amend and reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), the major Federal Act relating to Native American housing and community development. This milestone for Native American housing comes after years of hard work by the Indian tribes, Alaska Native Villages, tribal housing authorities and the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC).

“Dilapidated houses and over-crowded living conditions lead to weak school performance, poor health, and contribute to a hopelessness that few Americans witness as part of their daily lives. By reauthorizing NAHASDA, Congress has demonstrated incredible dedication to improve the dire housing conditions that too many Native Americans face,” said Marty Shuravloff, NAIHC Chairman.

Originally enacted in 1996, NAHASDA consolidates several federal housing programs into a single, formula-based block grant program. Built on the solid foundation of Indian self-determination law and policy, NAHASDA recognized tribal authority to provide housing and related infrastructure to their members in a way that maximizes tribal decision-making and flexibility in meeting housing needs and goals.

Maintaining the partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been essential to successful implementation of NAHASDA. Passage of H.R. 2786 brings Native American housing programs a big step closer to realizing the kind of “self-determination” and local decision making originally envisioned for NAHASDA. “The Department of Housing and Urban Development has consistently supported the reauthorization of NAHASDA, which includes the Indian Housing Block Grant program and the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program. The refinements made to these programs in the Act represent HUD’s and others dedication and commitment to provide decent, affordable housing in Indian Country,” said Steven Preston, HUD Secretary.

Last year, Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI), Chief Sponsor of H.R. 2786, steadily guided the bill through both chambers to its final approval by Congress. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-SD), Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, authored the final version of the bill in the Senate. Senator Dorgan prioritized passage of H.R. 2786 to address what he sees as the severe housing crisis for Native Americans. “This bill is more than just a housing act—it will give tribes more authority over their own land and truly help build stronger communities in Indian Country” said Dorgan.

A new component to NAHASDA is an amendment to Title VI, introduced by Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM), who has consistently applauded efforts to reauthorize NAHASDA. “Tribes need adequate flexibility and autonomy to use Indian Housing Block Grant dollars effectively, efficiently and in a manner that makes the most sense for tribal members’ specific needs,” said Pearce.

The NAHASDA bill has broad bi-partisan support in both chambers of Congress. “Given the great need for improvements in housing stocks for Alaska Natives and Indian tribes nationwide, these changes offer the hope of substantially increasing the availability of quality housing to Native people in the near future,” said Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), who is vice chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

“NAIHC is grateful for the outpouring of support from a broad coalition of Tribal leaders nationally and the many tribal housing partners that helped in the final push to get this bill passed before the end of the 110th Congress. We couldn’t have accomplished this without their support,” 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