



The Federal Monitor

News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

Volume 8, No. 3
August 4, 2008

A publication of
the **NATIONAL
AMERICAN
INDIAN
HOUSING
COUNCIL**

National American Indian Housing Council

NAIHC, a not-for-profit organization, assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their goal of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities, Alaska Native Villages and Hawaiian Home Lands.

Office of Governmental Affairs

50 F Street NW
Suite 3300
Washington DC
20001

Ph: (202) 789-1754
Fax: (202) 789-1758

Wendy L. Helgemo
Director

www.naihc.net

INDIAN COUNTRY WAITS FOR HOUSING BILL OVER AUGUST RECESS

Although Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and tens of thousands of homeowners see emergency relief coming from the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, a.k.a. the housing rescue, Indian Country awaits reauthorization of its major housing law – the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). This wait will be especially short, with the abbreviated congressional calendar due to the election year, or long, if reauthorization is not accomplished this year.

NAHASDA UPDATE

On July 17, 2008, Rep. Barney Frank, Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, requested the House to formally conference S.2062 and swapped out the Senate language for the House language. While NAIHC has worked diligently to get this bill done before the August recess, the housing rescue was the congressional priority. The Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA) continues to work with key staff in the Senate and the House as the Senate and House bills (H.R. 2786) contain major differences, namely: the Native Hawaiian and Cherokee Freedmen issues.

HOUSING RESCUE INCLUDES INDIAN COUNTRY

The housing rescue, signed into law just before the August recess, establishes the Housing Trust Fund which makes tribes eligible for low income housing dollars. NAIHC will work with HUD in the implementation of this new resource for tribal housing. Check www.naihc.net for periodic updates.

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

The U.S. House appropriations process has stalemated with one spending bill passed going into the August recess. The Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations were marked up immediately after the Fourth of July recess. Congress is expected to enact a Continuing Resolution until March 2009. Check www.naihc.net for tribal housing funding levels as they are released.

OTHER NEWS

NAIHC will be assisting in the joint efforts of all of the national Indian organizations in developing a Presidential Transitional Plan. This will establish Indian Country's agenda for the new President. Details will be available in the fall.