



The Federal Monitor

News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

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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 and Alaska Native Villages.

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NAHASDA BILL DISCHARGED BY SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE AND SENT TO FULL SENATE

In a late night move Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Banking and Housing and Urban Affairs discharged S. 2062, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2007. S. 2062 is pending on the Senate Floor, working its way through the unanimous consent process, and any "holds" will have to be addressed.

CONGRESS PASSES MASSIVE OMNIBUS WITH FUNDING INCREASES FOR INDIAN HOUSING

The Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations measure passed both Chambers this week in finishing up this year's legislative business before the Holiday recess. H.R. 2764 - The Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008, making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (a.k.a. the "Omnibus," for the remaining FY 2008 appropriations bills) included Division K - Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, which funds Indian housing programs. Notably the Omnibus provides:

- \$630 million for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG)
- \$2 million to a national organization representing Native American housing interest to provide training and technical assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (out of IHBG)
- \$980,000 for the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) for nationwide capacity building outreach and training (under "Neighborhood Initiatives")
- \$62 million for the Indian Economic Block Grants (Indian Community Development Block Grant)
- \$9 million for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant
- \$2 million for the Title VI Tribal Loan Guarantee Program
- \$7.5 million for the Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program

The almost \$1 million dollar appropriation for NAIHC was sponsored by Congressman John Olver (D-MA), who is also Chairman of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM).

H.R. 2764 passed by a vote of the full Senate 76-17, with added war funding, and by a vote of the full House 272-142 (as passed by the Senate). The FY 2008 Omnibus is on its way to the President and all indications are that he will sign it. Congress also cleared H J Res 72, a continuing resolution which funds the federal government at Fiscal Year 2007 levels through December 31, 2007.

What you can do:

1. Thank your Members of Congress for getting the job done and increasing funding for Indian housing.
2. Thank Congressman John Olver, Senator Tim Johnson and Senator Pete Domenici for sponsoring NAIHC as one of the Neighborhood Initiatives.