



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 self-determined goals 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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KICK OFF FOR 2007 NAHASDA REAUTHORIZATION

Thursday, March 22, 2007, will mark the Senate's kickoff for the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act in Congress.

Chairman Byron Dorgan (ND), Committee on Indian Affairs, has acknowledged, "There is a crisis in Indian housing," and has made reauthorization of NAHASDA a priority this session.

The Committee on Indian Affairs is holding this hearing to gather input from tribal leaders about Indian housing and their views on reauthorization of the Act and needed amendments. NAIHC, HUD, a leader from a small tribe and a leader from a large tribe have been invited to testify.

The hearing will be at 9:45 AM in the Russell Senate Office Building Room 485. You can log into www.indian.senate.gov and follow links to the webcast of scheduled hearing. The final witness list will appear there as well.

Please note that records for congressional hearings are open for two weeks. Anyone can send in any letters of support or opposition or any other materials relevant to the subject at hand until April 6, 2007. This is your chance to weigh in for your tribe to shape the bill. The bill is being drafted and will drop in a few weeks.

Send your comments to:
Committee on Indian Affairs
Attn: Marilyn Bruce
Committee Chief Clerk
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Also, please contact your Members of Congress in the House and Senate and ask them to co-sponsor this important legislation.

The House of Representatives will follow suit in about a month, holding a hearing and dropping a bill. Look for updates on the House Financial Services Committee.

Check out the OGA webpage on www.naihc.net for updates.