



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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READY SET GO!

THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTRODUCES NAHASDA BILL

The moment we have been waiting for has arrived. Today, H.R. 2786, the bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) was introduced.

Through the tireless efforts of NAIHC's members and congressional staffers, many changes to the law that will increase and enhance tribal flexibility to administer their Indian housing programs have been included in the bill.

These items are:

1. Access to Federal Supply Sources
2. Tribal Preference in Employment and Contracting
3. Exclusion of Developers Fees from Low Income Housing Tax Credit Projects from Program Income
4. Definition of Essential Families
5. Eligibility of Local Law Enforcement Officers For Residency
6. Operation and Maintenance Costs as Eligible Affordable Housing Activity
7. Reserve Accounts
8. Carryover
9. Exemption for Procurement of Goods and Services under \$5000
10. Availability of Criminal Records for Employment Applicants
11. Tribes are eligible for HOME funds

A novel part of the bill is *Subtitle B – Self Determined Activities for Tribal Communities* – that provides tribes can set aside 15%, up to \$1 million, of their Indian Housing Block Grant for the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of housing to be set forth in an Indian Housing Plan and is not subject to HUD annual review or approval.

Original co-sponsors include Dale Kildee (D-MI), Barney Frank (D-MA), Maxine Waters (D-CA), Rick Renzi (R-AZ), Dan Boren (D-OK), Tom Cole (R-OK) and Steve Pearce (R-NM).

What you can do:

1. Thank the original co-sponsors of the bill, Rep. Kildee, Rep. Frank, Rep. Waters, Rep. Boren, Rep. Renzi, Rep. Pearce and Rep. Cole in signing onto this legislation which is important to you and your tribe.
2. Continue to contact your Members in the House and ask them to support this bill through passage.