



"A Tradition of Native American Housing"

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The National American Indian Housing Council is a not-for-profit organization representing tribes and tribal housing organizations on affordable housing, mortgage lending, finance, and economic development issues.

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The Federal Monitor

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News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

Second Renzi/Matheson Bill Introduced in the House, First Bill Stalled in the Senate

A companion to S.1802, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives this evening by Congressman Rick Renzi (R-AZ) with Congressman Jim Matheson (D-UT) as the original co-sponsor. The bill (which has not yet been numbered) was crafted with an eye for what would be possible to finish before the end of the session. Two provisions of S.1802, sponsored in the Senate by Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) and co-sponsored by Senator Michael Enzi (R-WY), one dealing with the change to the 30% rule and another allowing for placing IHBG funds in reserve, were dropped from the new bill. Too much opposition to these two provisions still exists to get the entire bill through the Senate. Today's Renzi/Matheson bill includes: 1) the technical change to the program income amendment from 2002, 2) allowing tribes the ability to compete for HUD YouthBuild funds, 3) allowing for Indian preference in USDA housing programs, as well as 4) the provisions of H.R.4471, which would statutorily authorize the 95% guarantee for the Title VI loan guarantee program. This last provision was added to give the loan guarantee clarification a second chance in the Senate, since the original seems to have caught a snag. (see below) We understand the Financial Services Committee, chaired by Congressman Bob Ney (R-OH), may allow the new bill to circumvent normal procedure of hearings and mark-up and instead be sent straight to the floor of the House of Representatives to be passed under suspension of the rules. Time is of the essence since Congress recesses Friday until a lame-duck session in mid-November. The November session will likely be very short, so it will be difficult to do much more than wrap up appropriations or pass another long-term continuing resolution to continue funding government agencies.

The first Renzi/Matheson bill, H.R. 4471, and its Senate companion, S.2571, sponsored by Senator Michael Enzi (R-WY), would amend NAHASDA to authorize a 95% guarantee for the Title VI loan guarantee program. This bill, which made it through the House of Representatives in record time, has been held up in the Senate since June. It has been unclear until today why the bill had not been cleared for consideration on the Senate floor, but it seems to have become tied up in Committee issues that do not have to do with the actual bill. Legislation that would recognize Native Hawaiians as sovereign with a right to self-government similar to that of American Indians and Alaska Natives has been attached to H.R. 4471, in hopes that the bill can be brought up for floor consideration – action that the bill's sponsors have been unable to achieve thus far. H.R. 4471 is expected to be hotlined today and will likely draw a hold from Senators who do not support Native Hawaiian sovereignty recognition. The original Native Hawaiian recognition bill, S. 344, was sponsored by Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), with seven co-sponsors, including Indian Affairs leadership Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI). We understand that if no headway is made in clearing the Hawaiian recognition bill the provisions of H.R.4471 may be included in a year-end Indian Affairs omnibus.