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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 NATIONAL
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The Federal Monitor

The Federal Monitor

News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

Congress To Mark Up President's Budget Proposal

NAIHC is **urging its members to immediately call** their congressional representatives on **Tuesday, March 8**, as the window for action on the fiscal year 2006 budget is rapidly closing. Congress will begin voting on the President's budget on March 9. If finalized, the President's budget could lead to severe program cuts, especially for Indian housing.

Under the President's proposal, a separately funded, competitive program, the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), would be rolled under another separately funded, noncompetitive program, the Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG). Under the 2006 proposal, both programs would be funded for a total of \$583 million. Currently in the FY 2005 appropriations, ICDBG is funded at \$68 million and the NAHBG is funded at \$622. If the President's proposal for FY 2006 is enacted, that would mean a loss of \$107 million in housing for Indian country and an even larger loss to loan guarantee programs.

What you can do:

- * Call 1-888-818-6641 and asked to be connected to your representative's office.
- * Ask to speak to the legislative assistant responsible for budget issues.
- * Hang up and call again to speak to your senators' offices.
- * Contact Ross B. Bell at 202-454-0928 or Kim Baca at 202-454-0926 to let them know the results of your call.

A sample message:

"Representative/Senator ___ should oppose the \$107 million decrease to the Indian Housing Block Grant in the FY2006 budget proposal because:

- * The proposed reductions would reduce homeownership in Indian country by reducing the abilities to leverage block grant funds and administer individual loan programs.

- * American Indians have stood by the President in times of war by providing more warriors proportionally than any other minority group. They should return to conditions that are better—not worse—than those they fought and helped to rebuild.

- * The spending caps would prohibit appropriators from allocating more funds to the HUD budget, which is necessary to adequately fund Indian housing programs.

- * The overall funding for discretionary programs should be increased in order to get an increase in the HUD budget.

The *Federal Monitor* is distributed periodically in both email and fax format. If you would like to receive the *Federal Monitor* via email, please send a message to rbell@naihc.net.