



The Federal Monitor

The Federal Monitor

News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

Volume 5, Number 5
April 6, 2005

NAIHC Office of Governmental Affairs:

*Capitol Place,
Bldg Three
50 F Street NW
Suite #3300
Washington, D.C.
20001*

Ph: (202) 789-1754
Fax: (202) 898-0027
www.naihc.net

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.

*A publication of
the NATIONAL
AMERICAN
INDIAN
HOUSING
COUNCIL*

Ross B. Bell

Director

Kim Baca

Legislative Assistant

House Passes the Native American Housing Enhancement Act

The Native American Housing Enhancement Act, H.R. 797, passed by Voice Vote on the House Floor today at 1:20pm. The bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Rick Renzi (R-AZ) and Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT), includes three key provisions, identical to what was considered at the end of the 108th Congress: **1) makes a technical change to the program income amendment from 2002; 2) allows tribes the ability to compete for HUD YouthBuild funds; and 3) allows for Indian preference in USDA housing programs.** After 15 minutes of statements by Reps. Renzi, Matheson, Stephanie Herseth (D-SD) and Tom Cole (R-OK), the House suspended the rules and passed H.R. 797. Now, the bill moves to the Senate where companion language currently exists in S. 475, co-sponsored by Senators Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Michael Enzi (R-WY), and has the support of the committee chairman of jurisdiction.

Congress Hashes Out Budget Committee Proposals

On March 17th both the House and the Senate narrowly passed their respective budgets for FY 2006. H.Con.Res. 95, House of Representatives, was passed by a vote of 218-214. S.Con.Res.18, Senate, was passed by a vote of 51-49. Both Chambers must now schedule a conference to reconcile the differences between the two resolutions by April 15th. Publications in Washington are reporting that a reconciliation may be difficult, leaving the Congress again without a budget to guide the appropriators.

NAIHC Moves into New Office

NAIHC has moved to the west side of Union Station to Capitol Place Building Three, 50 F Street NW, Suite #3300. NAIHC is planning an open house and office blessing next month.

Federal Monitor Delivered via E-mail Only

Starting next month, the ***Federal Monitor*** will only be delivered through e-mail. Those who do not yet have e-mail or prefer fax will need to contact the Office of Governmental Affairs to remain on the fax list. For those who do not respond, your silence will signal that you are already on our e-mail address list. If you have not submitted your e-mail address or need to maintain fax service please e-mail Ross B. Bell at rbell@naihc.net with your name, housing authority or TDHE and e-mail address or call (800) 284-9165.