



# The Federal Monitor

News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

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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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## **Indian Housing Block Grant Program; Notice of Proposed Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Membership; Proposed Rule**

On March 29, 2006 HUD released the Indian Housing Block Grant Program; Notice of Proposed Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Membership; Proposed Rule. The Proposed rule includes the list of those nominated to serve on the next Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. Comments on the Proposed Rule are due on April 28, 2006 and can be submitted electronically through the rulemaking portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The proposed rule is attached.

## **Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Supports Adjusting Native American Housing Block Grant for Inflation**

"Poverty still has an Indian face" were the words of NAIHC Secretary Cheryl Parish before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The Committee listened to Ms. Parish and answered with support in their FY 2007 "Views and Estimates" sent to the Senate Budget Committee. The letter stated: "the Committee appreciates that the FY 2007 budget request, which proposes a level \$625 million, does not propose the substantial cut included in last year's budget request. However, because of inflationary pressures, the FY 2007 requested level will result in fewer homes being built for an Indian population that is growing and in need of safe, decent, and affordable housing." Additionally, "the Committee supports continued funding for the Council to provide technical assistance and training at the current level." The Committee also highlighted the need for infrastructure development within Indian country and has asked NAIHC for assistance in providing the necessary data. The "Views and Estimates" letter is attached.

## **H.R. 3350, to Amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000**

NAIHC Secretary Cheryl Parish came to Washington for a second time in a month to testify before the House Committee on Resources in support of [H.R. 3350, to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000](#). H.R. 3350 would establish a Tribal Development Corporation Feasibility Study Group. NAIHC will continue to support the passage of this vital legislation to creating economic opportunities in Indian country.

## **NAHASDA Reauthorization Policy Formulation Status Report**

Members at the Legislative Committee meeting held on February 28, 2006, determined that between the February Legislative Committee and the Annual Meeting that all members through their regional associations should meet to discuss their position on the issues listed in the NAHASDA Reauthorization Regional Composite. Items agreed to by all members

through their respective regions will automatically be incorporated into any NAHASDA Reauthorization Resolution, items not agreed to by all regions or that have remaining discussion for clarification will be addressed at the next Legislative Committee Meeting on May 21, 2006 in Honolulu, Hawaii at 9:00am. In addition, to facilitate these discussions, the Legislative Committee supported a motion requesting that the NAIHC Office of Governmental Affairs Director attend all regional meetings before the Annual Meeting in Honolulu to moderate the regional meetings as they take their positions. The intention of the next Legislative Committee Meeting in Hawaii will be to develop a NAHASDA Reauthorization Resolution for consideration and vote by the full membership at the Business Meeting on Wed., May 24. Specific language will be drafted on Thurs., May 25, to submit to Congress. Regional Associations need to immediately schedule time to discuss the NAHASDA Reauthorization Composite for input into the NAHASDA Reauthorization Resolution. Regions that have completed or scheduled discussion are: USET, GLIHA, Nev/Cal, SPIHA, NWIHA, UNAHA.