



"A Tradition of Native American Housing"

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HOUSING COUNCIL RESOLUTION #2008-07

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF NAHASDA IN 2008

- WHEREAS, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) represents the housing interests of American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages and more than 266 tribally designated housing entities; and
- WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the organization is to promote advocacy for policy and legislative changes that will favorably impact our primary goals of providing safe, decent, and affordable housing for Indian people in a manner recognizing the unique government-to-government relationship of tribes and the federal government; and
- WHEREAS, legislation is pending in both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate (H.R.2786 and S.2062 respectively) to amend and reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (Pub.L. 104-330) commonly known as NAHASDA; and
- WHEREAS, NAHASDA is the main legal authority for the United States to fulfill its trust obligations to low-income American Indians and Alaska Natives to provide safe, decent and sanitary housing; and
- WHEREAS, NAHASDA establishes the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) and authorizes funding for housing and housing-related infrastructure and community development in American Indian and Alaska Native communities; and
- WHEREAS, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) is comprised of 266 tribally-designated housing entities (TDHEs) throughout the United States; and
- WHEREAS, a membership dispute has recently arisen between the Cherokee Nation and the Cherokee Freedmen and has caused the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to become involved in the dispute; and
- WHEREAS, the CBC sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid indicating its intent to actively oppose the reauthorization of NAHASDA unless contained within it is a provision that denies Federal housing funds to the Cherokee Nation unless the Nation recognizes all Cherokee Freedmen and their descendants as tribal citizens of the Nation; and

- WHEREAS, NAIHC is concerned that this membership dispute may upend the NAHASDA reauthorization legislation and in the process impact hundreds of thousands of low-income American Indian and Alaska Native families; and
- WHEREAS, NAIHC believes that in instances where grievances may not be pursued in courts of competent jurisdiction, the involvement of the Congress may be warranted and justified; and
- WHEREAS, NAIHC believes that because a resolution of the membership dispute is being pursued in Cherokee Nation Tribal Court and Federal court, congressional intervention is premature, untimely, and inappropriate; and
- WHEREAS, preventing the reauthorization of NAHASDA in 2008 because of a membership dispute involving a single Indian tribe undermines long-standing congressional support for Indian tribes, Indian self-determination, and tribal self-governance; and
- WHEREAS, in order to meet the pressing housing needs of all of Indian Country, including those of the NAIHC members, NAIHC wishes to express its strong support for the reauthorization of NAHASDA in 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Members of NAIHC urge the U.S. Congress and its constituent members, committees, and organizations to:

- (1) Recognize the importance of NAHASDA reauthorization to low-income American Indian and Alaska Native families;**
- (2) Acknowledge that the impact of the proposed “Cherokee Freedmen amendments” will have negative impacts far beyond the Cherokee Nation or its members;**
- (3) Acknowledge that legal proceedings are now pending in both Cherokee Nation Tribal Court and Federal court that have the potential to resolve these matters; and**
- (4) Support legislation to reauthorize the NAHASDA that does not include amendments, provisions, or other language involving the Cherokee Nation Freedmen dispute.**

CERTIFICATION

As the duly appointed Secretary for the National American Indian Housing Council, I hereby certify that Resolution #2008-07, was adopted at NAIHC’s 34th Annual Business Meeting in Seattle, Washington on May 14, 2008, with a quorum present.



Marty Shuravloff, Chairman



Jason Adams, Secretary