

**NORTHWEST INDIAN HOUSING ASSOCIATION (NWIHA)  
2016 Resolution #2016-4**

RE: A Resolution Supporting Senator Maria Cantwell's Proposal to Expand the Annual Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program Allocation by 50%.

**WHEREAS,** The Northwest Indian Housing Association (NWIHA) represents thirty-eight Indian Housing Authorities, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and Tribal Housing Programs and Departments in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and Annette Island, Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Mission of NWIHA is to promote safe, sanitary, decent and affordable housing for Tribal members in the Pacific Northwest, which it accomplishes by providing training and education opportunities; providing a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues; advocating for the collective benefit of all members; effectively linking members to information and financial resources; and working collaboratively with its industry partners; and,

**WHEREAS,** Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-WA, announced on March 26, 2016 her proposal to expand the annual low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) allocation by 50 percent, to promote broader income mixing in LIHTC developments and to allow states more flexibility in financing properties targeting homeless or extremely low-income individuals and families; and

**WHEREAS,** Cantwell expects the proposals to create or preserve an additional 400,000 affordable rental homes over the next 10 years, and is working with her Senate colleagues to introduce the proposals as legislation soon; and

**WHEREAS,** Tribally Designated Housing Entities "TDHEs" and Tribal Housing Departments have developed in excess of \$1 billion in Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Projects in Indian Country; and

**WHEREAS,** In support of the need in Indian country for a set-aside for housing development, in testimony of Lourdes Castro Ramirez, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing before the US Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in March, 2016, stated:

- U.S. Census reports that one out of every four Native Americans lives in poverty – including more than one-third of all Native American children; far too many families live in unacceptable circumstances and face a future that lacks educational and economic opportunity.
- In the last 14 years (2003-2016), the number of low-income families in the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) formula areas grew by almost 44 percent, and now exceeds 322,000 families.
- The number of overcrowded households, or households without adequate kitchens or plumbing, grew by 23 percent, to over 111,000 families.
- Finally, the number of families with severe housing costs grew by 58 percent, to over 66,000 families.
- American Indian and Alaska Native people living in tribal areas in 2006-2010 had a poverty rate and an unemployment rate that were at least twice as high as those rates for non-Indians nationally.
- American Indian and Alaska Native people in large tribal areas were more than 3 times as likely to live in housing that was overcrowded, and more than 11 times as likely than the national average to live in housing that did not have adequate plumbing facilities.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Northwest Indian Housing Association urges Congress to support Senator Maria Cantwell's proposal to expand the annual Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program allocation by 50%; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Northwest Indian Housing Association urges the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) to join the Northwest Indian Housing Association in supporting this resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the foregoing Resolution #2016-4 was duly adopted by the Voting Membership of the Northwest Indian Housing Association Quarterly Meeting held at the Chinook Winds Casino Resort on April 19, 2016 with a quorum present.

BY:           /s/ Laurie Ann Cloud            
Laurie Ann Cloud, Chairman

ATTEST:

BY:           /s/ Wendy Lawrence            
Wendy Lawrence, Secretary