**To: NWIHA Membership**

**From: Sami Jo Difuntorum, NAIHC Board Member, Region VI**

**The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization based in Washington, DC, established in 1974**

NAIHC is a membership organization with over 440 members representing about 475 tribes and tribal housing organizations. Our mission supports tribes and TDHEs in their efforts to provide safe, decent, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing for Native Communities.

**Legislative Update:**

On Friday, March 8th, the United States Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024. This Act includes funding for multiple federal agencies, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**THUD FY24 Appropriations Bill**

* $1.344b for Native American Programs
* ~32% *increase* from FY2023
* $1.11b for IHBG

The White House’s Budget Request for Fiscal Year 25 was released recently. This budget was created with funding data from 2023, and therefore does not acknowledge the significant bump in funding we received through Appropriations recently.

**White House FY25 Budget Request**

$1.053b for Native American Programs

~20.6% *decrease* from FY2024

$820m for IHBG

NAIHC is committed to restoring Native American Programs, and IHBG in particular, to their original purchasing power. For this reason, NAIHC is preparing to request a 4% increase in IHBG funding for FY25. We do not support the White House’s proposed decrease in funding. The demonstrated need of our membership and the significant gains that will be made with the $1.344 we’ve received this year only further our resolve on this issue.

**Legislative Update, Part 2**

Deputy Sec. Adrianne Todman now Acting Secretary of HUD -Assumed role following Marcia Fudge’s departure March 22nd

Tom Cole (R-OK) secures Chair of Appropriations Committee. Cole’s appointment comes after 15 years on the Committee and 22 years in Congress.

**Advocacy**

* 1. **BABA**

The NAIHC Board of Directors recently wrote a letter to HUD and ONAP leadership, requesting a waiver under the Build America, Buy America Act. Without a waiver, this Act would further restrict the affordability and feasibility of Native housing development across the country. The current waiver expires May 24, 2024.

* 1. **NAHASDA Reauthorization**

NAIHC supports Senate Bill 2285, introduced by Sen. Brian Schatz in 2023, which would reauthorize NAHASDA. In the absence of this Bill being passed, NAIHC’s strategy has been to achieve NAHASDA funding levels through Appropriations. Given the significant increase in funding through Appropriations this year, this strategy has been effective. Even so, we continue to support and encourage SB 2885

* 1. **HUD-VASH Voucher Distribution**

NAIHC is working to evaluate the distribution of HUD-VASH vouchers. As it stands, the distribution is not adequately serving Native veterans on a national scale. NAIHC is in the process of forming a subcommittee on this issue, within our Legislative Committee, co-chaired by Board members Sami Jo Difuntorum and Sharon Vogel.

* 1. **Final Rule on Section 184**

NAIHC is identifying advocacy strategies in response to the Final Rule on Section 184. We maintain that this program could be improved upon regarding its implementation on Tribal lands. NAIHC is also working with our partners to form an ad-hoc advisory committee of experts to review and advise on any problematic policies included in the final rule.

* 1. **Meetings with Congress**

NAIHC’s staff is currently scheduling meetings with members of Congress for the coming weeks and months. Staff have also been in contact with Congressional offices to consult on what we plan on requesting for the FY25 federal budget. Maintaining bipartisan relationships with Congress members and staff will be crucial for our advocacy efforts.

We’re pleased to announce the newest members of NAIHC’s staff.

* **Douglas Marconi Sr.** is NAIHC’s Executive Director. Doug has around 30 years of experience managing Tribal housing programs, most recently serving as the Executive Director of the Colville Indian Housing Authority. Doug is an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Nation of Idaho.
* **Brendon Spann** is NAIHC’s Membership Coordinator. He previously served as a Management and Program Analyst for the U.S. Department of Education.
* **Lavar Curley** is NAIHC’s Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator. He previously held positions at federal agencies including the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of the Interior. Lavar is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation.
* **Blythe McWhirter** is NAIHC’s Legislative and Program Aide. Blythe recently graduated from Haverford College with a BA in Political Science. She previously worked at an affordable housing firm specializing in LIHTC and FHLB programs.
* **Ezra Kruger** is NAIHC’s Office Administrator. Ezra recently graduated from the University of Rochester with a Double BA in International Affairs and Russian. He most recently worked in the House of Representatives.
* NAIHC is currently hiring for the position of **Director of Operations**

### 2024 Annual Convention and Tradeshow

[The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fnaihc.net%2F&data=05%7C02%7Csamijod%40ctsi.nsn.us%7C5940178885cf4d5c477808dc63ac2c1d%7C66e2a496539b41cf9ae5c6b783c5c0d7%7C0%7C1%7C638494838379770039%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kwbkpwUXdxi5P4dZ4AZ%2FJLMOxuP4Cjk2VaIMg0vb%2F%2Fo%3D&reserved=0)) invites you to join us in Hollywood, Florida for the **50th Annual Convention and Tradeshow** at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino from June 24-27th. This year's Annual Convention will include break-out sessions to provide information on resources, services, and current issues directly related to Tribal housing and administration