

News Release

National American Indian Housing Council



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from NAIHC Chairman Chester Carl on Indian Housing Appropriations

Washington DC – September 16, 2005 - The National American Indian Housing Council Board of Directors on behalf of the membership unanimously affirmed its support for the **Senate Committee on Appropriations** language of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (TTHUD) appropriations bill, H.R. 3058. The language promoted by the Senate Committee, if enacted, would provide level funding for the Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG) at FY 2005 levels of \$622 million and would continue separate funding for the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) at \$69 million. This is only a small portion of what is needed to solve the desperate need in Indian Country for adequate, safe, and affordable housing and **NAIHC** hopes it is the start of a trend to reverse the past year's cuts to these vital programs.

Further, though there is considerable debate among tribes over the distribution formula for the NAHBG under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) and the failure of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to consult tribes before making a very important policy decision, **NAIHC** asserts that the appropriations bill is the wrong place to address this issue. However, it is through Negotiated Rulemaking that there is still an opportunity to address the distribution formula modification. Thus, **NAIHC** opposes any language to FY'06 appropriations that would change the existing NAHBG distribution formula under NAHASDA.

We urge Congress today to ensure the passage of H.R. 3058 at the Senate Committee levels to continue the development of a self-sufficient path for Indian housing.

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*NAIHC assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages.
NAIHC...A Tradition of Native American Housing*

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