



A RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE TO PASS SENATE BILL 1352 – REAUTHORIZATION OF NAHASDA AND INCREASE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS OVER ITS FIVE YEAR TERM

#2014 – 01

- WHEREAS, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) represents the housing interests of American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and native Hawaiian Home Lands and more than 277 tribally designated housing entities providing housing services to approximately 466 tribes, Alaska Natives, and native Hawaiians; 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 culturally relevant and quality affordable housing for Native people in a manner recognizing the unique government-to-government relationship of tribes and the federal government; and
- 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, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) was enacted to further Tribal self-governance, and streamline and simplify the process of providing housing assistance to Tribes and Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS, NAHASDA was reauthorized twice, in 2002 and 2008, but expired on September 30, 2013; and
- WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1352, sponsored by Senator Maria Cantwell and introduced on July 24, 2013, is a bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is being considered in the 113th Congress; and
- WHEREAS, two similar bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs published its report on Senate Bill 1352 on April 11, 2014, stating, "Notwithstanding the very troubling statistics on housing need throughout Indian country, the reauthorization does not increase the Federal spending authorization for this program;" and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reports that over 25 percent of American Indian housing units have "severe housing needs," including (among other things), lack of basic plumbing or kitchen facilities, housing more than one person per room, and bearing a cost burden of more than 50 percent of income; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office prepared a cost estimate for Senate Bill 1352, which indicated that housing block grants would only be funded at an average of \$679 million per year over the next five year reauthorization period, and was woefully short of the need, estimated at a minimum of \$875 million per year by the National American Indian Housing Council; and

WHEREAS, after adopting this resolution, the Executive Committee of NWIHA submitted it to its Voting Members to obtain a sense of the membership, a majority of those members having approved it by a vote conducted by electronic means on April 30, 2014 - May 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), an organization consisting of Tribal leaders in the Pacific Northwest, passed this resolution at their 2014 Mid-Year Convention held at Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, Washington May 5-8, 2014 with a quorum present;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National American Indian Housing Council does hereby join with NWIHA and ATNI to urge the Senate to pass Senate Bill 1352, the Reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National American Indian Housing Council does hereby join with NWIHA and ATNI to strongly support increased Congressional appropriations of at least \$875 million per year over the 5 year reauthorization period; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National American Indian Housing Council does hereby respectfully request the National Congress of American Indians and all other regional Native American associations and organizations to join with NWIHA and ATNI in supporting this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

As the duly appointed Secretary for the National American Indian Housing Council, I hereby certify that Resolution #2014 – 01 was adopted on June 5, 2014 at NAIHC's Annual Members Meeting in Kansas City, MO, with a quorum present and by a supermajority of the vote.



Sami Jo Difuntorum, Chairwoman



Floyd Tortalita, Secretary