



RESOLUTION #2019 – 02

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BILLS S. 787 AND H.R. 1737, THE AMERICAN HOUSING AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY ACT, AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE TRIBAL PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE BILL

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 286 tribally designated housing entities providing housing services to approximately 493 tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of NAIHC is to promote and advocate for policy and legislative changes that will favorably impact its mission of supporting American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians in their self-determined goal to provide culturally relevant and quality affordable housing for Native people in a manner recognizing the unique government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) was enacted (and has been reauthorized and amended) to further Tribal self-governance, and streamline and simplify the process of providing housing assistance to Tribes and Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, NAIHC recognizes that NAHASDA has been instrumental in improving

the capacity of tribal housing programs throughout the Country, and

WHEREAS, NAIHC appreciates Congress' support of NAHASDA and tribal housing programs, as evidenced by recent increases in funding, and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding that support from Congress, funding of NAHASDA programs has not kept pace with inflation or documented need; and

WHEREAS, the Assessment of American Indian and Alaska Native Housing Needs report released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in January 2017 documented a need of 68,000 new units across Indian Country to address high rates of substandard homes and overcrowded conditions in tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the HUD Report also identified that the number of new units being created under existing NAHASDA resources is less than 1,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, NAIHC recognizes that addressing the housing shortage in Indian Country identified by the HUD Report will require substantial investment in NAHASDA programs and/or the expansion of other housing programs to which tribes currently have access; and

WHEREAS, the American Housing and Economic Mobility Act was introduced in the 116th Congress in the Senate as S. 787 by Senator Warren (MA), and cosponsored by Senators Gillibrand (NY) and Markey (MA), and in the House of Representatives as H.R. 1737 by Representative Richmond (LA) and fourteen cosponsors; and

WHEREAS, provisions of the American Housing and Economic Mobility Act would provide a reauthorization of Block Grants under NAHASDA and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program at substantially increased funding levels and would allow tribal housing programs to access tenant-

based assistance programs under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937; and

WHEREAS, these provisions would make a substantial impact in addressing housing needs in Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National American Indian Housing Council does hereby support the American Housing and Economic Mobility Acts as introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National American Indian Housing Council urges other members of Congress to support or cosponsor the American Housing and Economic Mobility Act and its tribal provisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the National American Indian Housing Council urges Congress to consider and enact the tribal provisions contained in the American Housing and Economic Mobility Act through any legislative vehicle; 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 in supporting this Resolution.

CERTIFICATION

As the duly appointed Secretary for the National American Indian Housing Council, I hereby certify that Resolution #2019-02 was adopted on May 8, 2019 at NAIHC's Annual Members Meeting in Denver, CO, with a quorum present and by a supermajority of the vote.



Gary Cooper, Chairman



Erna Reeves, Secretary