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March 27, 2026

Downing, Bynum, Schatz, Murkowski Introduce Landmark Bill to Modernize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act

WASHINGTON, DC – Yesterday, U.S. Representatives Troy Downing (R-MT) and Janelle Bynum (D-OR), alongside U.S. Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), introduced the *NAHASDA Modernization Act of 2026*. Two versions of the legislation have been introduced – one in the House and one in the Senate. While there are differences in the specific provisions included in each bill, the majority of the legislation is substantially aligned and focused on streamlining program administration and expanding tools to improve housing affordability in Indian Country. A section-by-section comparison of both versions is available on the NAIHC website.

Since its enactment on October 26, 1996, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) has served as a cornerstone of federal housing policy in Indian Country. The law consolidated multiple federal housing programs into a streamlined block grant system, including the Indian Housing Block Grant and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant, enabling Tribal Nations to design and implement housing solutions that meet their unique needs. NAHASDA was last authorized in 2008 and expired in 2013.

“The introduction of the NAHASDA Modernization Act marks a pivotal moment for Indian Country,” said Rudy Soto, **Executive Director of the National American Indian Housing Council**. “As federal housing policy undergoes its most significant transformation in decades, it is encouraging to see strong bipartisan leadership from Representatives Troy Downing and Janelle Bynum, alongside Chair Murkowski and Vice Chair Schatz, ensuring Tribal communities are not left behind. This legislation reinforces Tribal self-determination by providing both a seat at the table and the tools to lead. As we mark 30 years since NAHASDA’s passage, this is a defining opportunity for Congress to deliver meaningful, lasting change.”

“Homeownership is the foundation of the American dream—that doesn’t stop with Americans in our tribal communities,” **said Congressman Downing**. “Indian Country needs the stability of reauthorization to responsibly plan, finance, and maintain housing investments, along with modernized rules, regulations, and policies that unlock tribes’ ability to adapt to changing economic, construction, and community realities. I am incredibly grateful to my colleagues in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle for their outpouring of support for this effort to ensure that housing is affordable for all Americans.”



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“For too long, tribal communities have not had the tools they need to build and maintain affordable housing,” **Rep. Bynum** said. “They deserve access to resources that provide long-term stability and expand pathways to homeownership, which is exactly what my bill does. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation to strengthen access to affordable housing across every community.”

“Over the past 30 years, NAHASDA has delivered billions of dollars in federal funding to improve Native housing in Hawai‘i and across the country,” **said Vice Chairman Schatz**. “Our bill reflects what Native communities asked for: better tools and flexibilities to make homeownership and stable housing a reality for more families. I thank Chairman Murkowski for her partnership and all the Native leaders and organizations who helped make this bipartisan legislation even stronger.”

“For more than a decade, I’ve worked on NAHASDA and heard directly from Native families about how the lack of safe, affordable housing affects every part of daily life. As Congress continues its efforts to address housing challenges around the country, we cannot leave Native communities behind. The federal government has a trust responsibility to ensure Tribes have the tools to meet the housing needs of their people,” **said Chairman Murkowski**. “I’m proud to have worked alongside Tribal leaders and stakeholders in Alaska and across the country to identify practical solutions. By cutting red tape and providing greater flexibility, we can help communities provide housing that fits their unique needs and supports long-term stability.”

The *NAHASDA Modernization Act of 2026* is co-sponsored by U.S. Representatives Janelle Bynum (D-OR-05) (co-lead), Andy Barr (R-KY-06), Don Bacon (R-NE-02), Cliff Bentz (R-OR-02), , Tom Cole (R-OK-04), Angie Craig (D-MN-02), Don Davis (D-NC-01), Sharice Davids (D-KS-03), Monica De La Cruz (R-TX-15), Warren Davidson (R-OH-08), Julie Fedorchak (R-ND-AL), Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN-03), Mike Haridopolos (R-FL-08), Bill Huizenga (R-MI-04), Dusty Johnson (R-SD-AL), William Keating (D-MA-09), Rick Larsen (D-WA-02), Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM-03), Sam Liccardo (D-CA-16), Mike Lawler (R-NY-17), Barry Loudermilk (R-GA-11), Frank Lucas (R-OK-03), Dan Meuser (R-PA-09), Gwen Moore (D-WI-04), Zach Nunn (R-IA-03), Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01), Mike Simpson (R-ID-02), Melanie Stansbury (D-NM-01), Greg Stanton (D-AZ-04), Bryan Steil (R-WI-01), Marlin Stutzman (R-IN-03), Gabe Vasquez (D-NM-02), Ann Wagner (R-MO-02), Ryan Zinke (R-MT-01).

And U.S. Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID), Steve Daines (R-MT), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Dan Sullivan (R-AK).

The House version of this legislation is endorsed by the Bipartisan Policy Center Action, Housing Assistance Council, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, National American Indian



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Housing Council, National Congress of American Indians, National NeighborWorks Association, Native Community Development Financial Institutions Network, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition, United Native American Housing Association.

Click [here](#) for the full House bill text.

Click [here](#) for the section-by-section summary of the House bill.

Click [here](#) for the full Senate bill text.

Click [here](#) for the section-by-section summary of the Senate bill.

Click [here](#) for section-by-section comparison of both versions.

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About NAIHC

The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), established in 1974, is the only national nonprofit organization representing Tribal housing programs and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) across Indian Country. NAIHC provides training, technical assistance, advocacy, and resources to support safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing for Native people.

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