



# National American Indian Housing Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2026

## NAIHC Welcomes Bipartisan Senate Amendments to Include Tribal Housing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ROAD to Housing Act

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) today welcomed the introduction of several amendments to the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act* (H.R. 6644) that would incorporate Tribal housing provisions into the legislation. The amendments were introduced by U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Dan Sullivan (R-AK) following growing calls to ensure Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities are included in the landmark housing package.

The amendments respond to concerns raised by Tribal leaders and Tribal housing organizations after the initial Senate housing package advanced without provisions addressing Tribal housing programs under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

“Tribal housing cannot be left out of a once-in-a-generation overhaul,” said **Rudy Soto, executive director of the National American Indian Housing Council**. “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu. We appreciate Senators Murkowski, Schatz, and Sullivan for their efforts and steadfast dedication to Native and Tribal communities during this federal housing policy overhaul, and for introducing amendments that move us closer to ensuring Native communities are not left behind.”

Native communities continue to face some of the most severe housing conditions in the United States, including overcrowding rates eight times the national average and a documented need for at least 68,000 new homes to relieve overcrowding and replace inadequate units.

As Congress advances the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, Tribal leaders have emphasized that modernizing NAHASDA is essential to ensuring Native communities have the same updated tools, financing flexibility, and program efficiencies being extended to other federal housing programs.

Several amendments currently under consideration would help address critical barriers to housing development in Tribal communities, including:

- **Amendment #4341 (Murkowski/Schatz/ Sullivan) – Income Requirements**  
Allows Tribes to raise the income ceiling for beneficiaries to 120% of AMI, provided the majority of units continue to serve families at or below 80% AMI. This would expand access to homeownership in Tribal communities while maintaining the program’s focus on low-income Native families. The approach aligns with both the Road to Housing Act and the HOME program framework.



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- **Amendment #4340 (Murkowski/Schatz/ Sullivan) – Environmental Review Streamlining:** Reduces duplicative environmental reviews by allowing Tribes to rely on HUD’s environmental review to satisfy other federal requirements when NAHASDA or ICDBG is the primary funding source and the Tribe has assumed environmental review responsibility. The amendment also exempts certain low-cost housing activities, helping accelerate housing construction in Tribal and rural communities.
- **Amendment #4342 (Murkowski/Schatz/ Sullivan) – Build America, Buy America Waiver:** Provides a waiver from BABA requirements for Tribes and rural communities, recognizing the unique supply chain and cost challenges in remote and Tribal areas that significantly increase project costs and delay construction. Grace and Cassidy have been working on this provision.

Additional amendments focused on housing supply challenges, including reporting on housing conditions in Alaska and broader supply chain barriers, would also help inform federal efforts to address housing shortages in rural and Tribal communities.

NAIHC will continue to work with Congress to ensure Tribal Housing provisions remain in the final legislation and will continue to monitor the progress of this Act.

To read the bill text, click [here](#).

To read the section-by-section, click [here](#).

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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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