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## MEMORANDUM

June 1, 2017

To: Housing Clients

From: Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, LLP

Re: ***NAIHC Legislative Committee Meeting***

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This memo reports on the monthly NAIHC Legislative Committee meeting, which was held on June 1, 2017 (by teleconference).

**Census.** Tony Walters gave a brief update on the census. The census is working on its boundary surveys. There is a yearly call to update those boundaries by the census, and the deadline for commenting this year is coming up.

**FY 2017 Omnibus Funding Signing Statement.** The Trump Administration's signing statement called out certain line items for funding that will involve additional scrutiny for due process concerns, and included the Indian Housing Block Grant in that list (along with several other race-based funding appropriations). The Navajo Housing Authority (NHA) is putting together a letter to the Administration to educate them on the backdrop of Indian housing and Indian funding, and they are asking others to sign off on this letter. The NHA representative on the phone stated that the Administration subsequently issued a retraction regarding the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (which were listed), but the Administration did not retract the part of the statement regarding Indian housing. NHA sent a draft of its letter to NAIHC, which will send it on to the NAIHC membership. Chairman Cooper suggested drafting a resolution to be presented and adopted at the NAIHC convention.

**FY 2018 Budget Issues.** Mr. Walters also spoke about the FY 2018 budget request by the Trump Administration, which we previously reported on. Congressional committees are asking for information and input from tribes. The Senate Transportation-HUD (THUD) committee had asked for comments to be submitted by last Friday, and NAIHC submitted comments. But even if it is after the deadline, it is still important to submit information if you want to weigh in – the Committee staff will likely look at it. To date, the only committee that has asked for written testimony in a formal process is the Senate THUD. However, you can contact appropriators and allies in the House as well and submit information at any point now. The budget discussions are under way in earnest.

Mr. Walters gave an update on the funding resources task force. NAIHC is working on a draft of a white paper template on the various NAIHC priority advocacy issues. They are still looking for volunteers for various white papers. There is one being developed for funding, and the need to increase funding for the IHBG to keep up with inflation, and certainly not to cut the IHBG. NAIHC's budget request asks for no less than \$700 million, but notes that the IHBG should be \$900 million to keep up with inflation.

**BUILD Act (NAHASDA Reauthorization).** Mr. Walters also gave a brief update on the BUILD Act, introduced by Senator Hoeven (we reported about this bill to you in a previous memo). This is a shorter version of NAHASDA reauthorization, with the goal of getting this through the roadblocks in the Senate. The idea for the shorter bill came from Mike Andrews, Chief of Staff on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. There is a hearing scheduled for June 13, 2017 on Indian housing issues. NAIHC is working on a witness list. There will likely be three panels. NAIHC will update its members as it gets information. NAIHC is still analyzing the bill, and wants to hear your comments. This bill does not include the Native Hawaiian provisions that have been the hold-up in the Senate previously. Chairman Cooper urged everyone to read the bill and be prepared to discuss at the NAIHC convention at the end of June. One of the members on the call requested that any communication from NAIHC on the BUILD Act mention that the Native Hawaiian funding has been left out. Mr. Walters said that NAIHC will put together an analysis of the provisions of the BUILD Act.

**Section 8.** One of the participants raised the Section 8 issue. Last year, NAIHC passed a resolution that called on Congress to authorize tribes to apply for Section 8 vouchers for LIHTC developments. To get tribal access to Section 8 funding would require an amendment to NAHASDA, which terminated tribal access to that Section 8 (and other sources of funding). As NAHASDA reauthorization starts unfolding, this is an issue to begin bringing into the discussion.

**Next Legislative Committee Meeting.** The next Legislative Committee meeting will be an in-person meeting, Monday June 26, 2017, at 2:00 PM, in Nashville, and the NAIHC/Amerind Annual Convention.

If you have any questions about the items in this memorandum, please do not hesitate to contact Edmund Clay Goodman at [EGoodman@hobbsstrauss.com](mailto:EGoodman@hobbsstrauss.com) or by phone at (503) 242-1745.