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## MEMORANDUM

May 5, 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, held by teleconference on May 4, 2017. Gary Cooper from Cherokee Nation Housing Authority, chaired the meeting. Also on the line was NAIHC's new Executive Director, Tony Walters, who began work in early April. NAIHC is reorganizing its administrative functions so that Tony will be leading NAIHC's advocacy efforts.

### 1. FY 2017 Appropriations

FY 2017 appropriations were funded only through April 28, 2017, pursuant to a continuing resolution adopted late in 2016. Congress enacted another short-term CR on April 28, 2017 for one week. Earlier this week, the leadership announced an agreement on an Omnibus Appropriations bill to fund the government for the remainder of FY 2017. The NAHASDA IHBG will be funded at the FY 2016 level (\$654 million), and ICDBG at the FY 2016 level of \$60 million (as reported in our last housing report). The bill passed out of both the House and Senate and will be signed by President Trump. HUD has indicated that it will be trying to get the remaining FY 2017 IHBG funds out as quickly as possible, but it will likely take about 60 days from the date the President signs the bill.

### 2. FY 2018 Appropriations

The FY 2018 appropriations process is under way. It began with the release of the Administration's "skinny budget" in March. The House T-HUD appropriations sub-committee is accepting informal comments on the skinny budget to help in determining its budgeting priorities. The Senate Committee is open for receiving formal comments until May 26, 2017. It is critically important to weigh in on FY 2018 funding, particularly since the Administration is proposing significant cuts to the HUD budget. While no specific cuts to IHBG and ICDBG are identified in the "skinny budget" (which dealt in very general terms), the Washington Post released documents it obtained showing proposed reductions in the IHBG of approximately 20%, and a complete zeroing out of the ICDBG. Tony Walters will be drafting a general template letter for NAIHC

that its members can use in submitting comments. One participant asked if there was going to be a specific effort focused on ICDBG funding. Tony said that there was not a specific effort, but that it would be helpful to set out a list of what tribes can and cannot do with ICDBG funding, and with IHBG funding, to demonstrate that these are not redundant programs, but rather complementary.

### **3. Nomination of HUD Deputy Secretary**

The President has announced the appointment of a new Deputy Secretary for HUD, Pamela Hughes Patenaude. Ms. Patenaude is currently the president of the J. Ronald Terwilliger Foundation for Housing America's Families and former director of housing policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center. She served as HUD assistant secretary for Community, Planning and Development during the George W. Bush Administration. She was initially discussed as a possible candidate for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Trump Administration. The National Fair Housing Alliance lauded her nomination, and issued the following statements:

With over 25 years of experience in housing, public policy, and community and economic development, Mrs. Patenaude brings to HUD a wealth of knowledge, management skills, and strategic leadership.

Mrs. Patenaude is a person who possesses keen insight and a broad vision for ways to expand equal housing opportunities in America. She knows that America is in a critical housing crisis.

...

Pamela Patenaude is someone who has not only the desire to make housing opportunities better for all people, she has the skill-set to get the job done.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition also offered praise for the appointment, noting that “Ms. Patenaude is a strong leader with decades of experience cultivating bipartisan solutions to America’s affordable rental housing crisis. She has deep knowledge of, experience with and appreciation for the critical programs she will oversee.”

### **4. HUD VASH**

A number of tribes are involved with the HUD VASH program, and continue to work through issues with HUD and the VA as to make the program work more effectively. There was a conference call among HUD VASH tribes on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017, but only five tribes of the approximately 30 tribes in the program were on the call. The call covered general topics for making the program more effective, but mainly they would like to encourage greater participation in the calls going forward, so the tribes can share notes, best practices, things to avoid, etc., and also to coordinate approaches for addressing issues with HUD and with the VA.

## **5. NAIHC Funding Task Force**

NAIHC has set up a separate “funding task force” to address advocacy for increased funding for Indian housing programs. The task force is structured like the Legislative Committee: anyone who wants to participate can. You can sign up via a link on the NAIHC website, and will get information regarding calls and agendas. The task force was originally scheduled to meet twice a month by conference call (first and third Wednesdays), but due to time constraints on the participants will move to meeting just once per month. They identified four issues from the legislative advocacy priority list that were funding-related, and will begin working on those issues:

- Increase IHBG annual appropriations
- Deliver Training and TA funds in accordance with NAHASDA, and to retain Training and TA in HUD ONAP, not PD&R
- Funding for homeless evaluation programs
- Allocated \$100 million a year (in non-IHBG funds) to combat methamphetamine issues in Indian Country

## **6. NAIHC Legislative Priorities**

NAIHC has developed its legislative priorities list. With the funding task for taking on four of the issues, there still remain a number of issues on that list. NAIHC is looking for volunteers to develop white papers on those issues, or to submit any information on those issues to NAIHC staff so they can put that information together for its advocacy efforts. The issues are:

- NAHASDA reauthorization
- Improved federal consultation process
- Advocacy for a single agency source of funding for infrastructure and site development
- Increase backing for “supportive services” for housing to enable wrap around housing services, including but not limited to relaxing restrictions on affordable housing
- Extend time for rebuilding demolished buildings
- Extend/expand the BIA HIP, ensure transparent application and evaluation process
- Direct TDHE grant eligibility for other HUD programs, such as HOME

## **7. NAIHC/Amerind Annual Convention**

The NAIHC/Amerind Annual Convention will be held this year in Nashville, TN from June 27-29. The Legislative Committee will meet in person the day before the convention starts, on June 26.

Tony Walters reminded the group that the deadline for submitting resolutions and proposed by-laws changes is 5:00 PM, Friday, June 2. The funding task force is going to work on a uniform funding resolution that can be considered on the floor. In the past, different regions have submitted differing funding resolutions, leading to some confusion and the need for rushed negotiations at the convention. Having a uniform resolution agreed-upon prior to the convention will save time and energy.

To be able to make hotel reservations, you will have to first register for the convention.

One other item: NCAI is holding its mid-year conference June 12-15 at the Mohegan Sun Resort in Connecticut.

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.