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MEMORANDUM

May 1, 2025

TO: TRIBAL HOUSING CLIENTS

FROM:  Ed Clay Goodman & Cari L. Baermann
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RE: ***NAIHC May 1, 2025 Legislative Committee Meeting and Other Housing Updates***

This memorandum provides a synthesis of information presented during the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) Legislative Committee Meeting held on May 1, 2025, and updates on other housing matters.

I. NAIHC Legislative Committee

NAIHC Executive Director Rudy Soto, NAIHC Legislative & Program Aide Blythe McWhirter, and NAIHC Board Member Jacqueline Pata facilitated the Legislative Committee Meeting.

a. New Administration

Ms. Pata and Ms. McWhirter gave an update on the new Presidential Administration and the new Congress. Ms. Pata provided an overview of NAIHC's advocacy approach during this new Administration. She commented that NAIHC is participating in a number of tribal consultations with federal agencies, to advocate for funding for tribal housing and the need for increased staff at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Soto remarked that NAIHC is focusing on multiple strategies for advocating for increased funding for tribal housing. This includes meetings with staff of the House Committee on Appropriations and Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance to continue to advocate for the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) and increased funding for tribal housing.

NAIHC staff discussed some of the impacts of the President's reduction of federal agency employees. Ms. Pata commented that HUD's staff has been reduced by 2300 employees. That includes a reduction of 60 employees within the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) (a 25% reduction). NAIHC has drafted a template letter (attached to this memo) that tribes can use to write to Congress about the impacts of the federal agency workforce reduction on tribal housing. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Interior will be holding tribal consultations from May 20, 2025 through June 6, 2025, with seven hybrid in-person and virtual consultations scheduled: 1)

Anchorage, Alaska on **May 20, 2025**; (2) Sacramento, California on **May 22, 2025**; (3) Albuquerque, New Mexico on **May 27, 2025**; (4) Bloomington, Minnesota on **May 29, 2025**; (5) Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on **June 3, 2025**; (6) Washington, DC on **June 5, 2025**. In addition, there will be a virtual-only session on **June 6, 2025**. Finally, there will be a Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-specific virtual consultation on **May 30, 2025**. Ms. McWhirter commented that these consultations will focus in part on the reduction in the federal agency workforce.

Ms. McWhirter also provided an update on other actions by the Presidential Administration. The Administration has increased tariffs on lumber, steel, and manufactured products, which are in effect as of April 5, 2025. Additionally, the Administration is imposing a 125% ad valorem duty tax on top of existing tariffs for imports from China. This will significantly increase the costs of products from China. Ms. McWhirter commented that the Administration is further imposing a 14.5% tariff on Canadian softwood lumber. These tariffs on Canada are expected to increase to 34.5% later in 2025. Ms. McWhirter remarked that since Canada accounts for roughly 85% of all softwood lumber imports into the United States, this tariff will likely be detrimental for housing construction costs.

Ms. McWhirter commented that the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty (CTS) is one group that is actively advocating for critical issues affecting tribes and tribal programs. CTS is a coalition of 26 national and regional inter-tribal organizations serving tribes and tribal organizations. Ms. McWhirter noted that CTS has drafted numerous letters to Congress and to various federal agencies, addressing the impacts of the President's actions on tribal programs and advocating that the federal government protect federal programs that serve Native Americans. Tribal advocates can access those letters on the [CTS website](#) to use as templates for their own advocacy efforts.

b. Budget and Appropriations

Ms. Pata and Ms. McWhirter provided a brief update on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations. As we have discussed in previous memoranda, Congress was not able to pass any full-year appropriations bills for FY 2025 before the end of FY 2024. In order to avoid a government shutdown, Congress passed multiple continuing resolutions (CRs) to fund the Federal Government at FY 2024 levels through the rest of the fiscal year (September 30, 2025). Below again is a chart showing the FY 2024 appropriations for tribal housing programs.

Native American Programs	FY 2024
Tribal HUD-VASH	\$7.5 million
Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG)	\$1.11 billion
IHBG Competitive Grants	\$150 million
Title VI Loans	\$1 million
Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)	\$75 million
Training and Technical Assistance	\$7 million
National Organization Funding (per Sec.703 of NAHASDA)	\$2 million
Section 184 Loans	\$1.5 million
Imminent threats to health and safety	\$5 million
Native Hawaiian Program	

Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant (NHHBG)	\$22.3 million
Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee Program (Section 184A)	\$28 million
Native Hawaiian Training and Technical Assistance	\$1 million

Ms. McWhirter provided an update on the President's Budget. She commented that the President's Budget serves as a policy and funding blueprint for the federal government. The Administration has indicated that the President's budget will propose cutting \$644 million in IHBG funding, saying this funding would be unnecessary because of new, unspecified initiatives, such as enhanced opportunity zones that would give states greater incentives to provide affordable housing. However, Congress is the governmental branch that has the power to actually set the federal appropriations amounts. Ms. McWhirter therefore noted that Congress may choose not to implement the President's intent to reduce IHBG funding. As a result, Ms. McWhirter further commented that this is a good time for tribes to advocate to Congress about the importance of funding for tribal housing programs. Ms. Pata also commented that the federal government has used opportunity zone strategies in the past and they were generally not beneficial for tribal communities. She remarked that the state governors were the individuals who made the final decisions about opportunity zones, which was detrimental for tribes with difficult relationships with state governments. Because there were limited opportunities and funding, tribal housing did not receive much funding through those opportunity zone initiatives.

c. NAHASDA Reauthorization

As we have reported previously, the Senate passed a NAHASDA reauthorization bill in 2024, but the bill did not make it past the House. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) Chair Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Vice Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) have communicated that they are committed to passing NAHASDA again this year. Ms. McWhirter remarked that NAIHC will continue to advocate for the NAHASDA reauthorization this year.

d. Other Housing Bills

Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (S.1557) (AHCIA). Ms. McWhirter discussed the AHCIA bill, which was introduced by Senator Young (R-IN) and Senator Cantwell (D-WA). The AHCIA would revise a number of provisions of the low-income housing tax credit program. Ms. McWhirter remarked that one of the ways in which the bill would be beneficial for tribal housing is that the AHCIA would revise the state allocation selection criteria for low-income housing tax credits to prioritize housing development in tribal areas.

e. NAIHC Legislative Committee Meetings and Future Conferences

The NAIHC Legislative Committee meetings will continue to be held on the first Thursday of each month via Zoom. Anyone who would like to submit questions prior to the meetings may do so through the link provided in the NAIHC email that is sent out before each call.

NAIHC will hold its Annual Convention on May 26–29, 2025, in Los Angeles, California. Registration is open on the NAIHC website, available [here](#).

Conclusion

If you have any questions about this memorandum or any of the topics discussed within, please contact Ed Clay Goodman (egoodman@hobbsstrauss.com) or Cari Baermann (cbaermann@hobbsstrauss.com). Both may also be reached at 503-242-1745.