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MEMORANDUM

April 4, 2025

TO: TRIBAL HOUSING CLIENTS

FROM:  Ed Clay Goodman & Cari L. Baermann
HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER, LLP

RE: ***NAIHC April 3, 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 April 3, 2025, and updates on other housing matters.

I. NAIHC Legislative Committee

NAIHC Board Chair Bobby Yandell, NAIHC Legislative Committee Co-Chair Chris Kolerok, NAIHC Legislative & Program Aide Blythe McWhirter, and NAIHC Board Member Jacqueline Pata facilitated the Legislative Committee Meeting.

a. New Administration

Mr. Kolerok gave an update on the new Presidential Administration and the new Congress. Mr. Kolerok commented on the numerous Executive Orders the new Administration has issued since the beginning of the year. He speculated that the flood of Executive Orders may be due in part to the fact that the Administration may have only two years of a unified government (meaning Republicans are in control of both chambers of Congress and the White House) to accomplish its goals. The mid-term Congressional elections in 2026 could result in Republicans losing seats to Democrats, so Mr. Kolerok commented that the Administration's approach may change at that point.

Mr. Kolerok provided an overview of NAIHC's advocacy approach during this new Administration. He remarked that the Administration's deliberate targeting of various law firms and other groups this year demonstrates the adversarial nature of the Administration's actions. As a result, Mr. Kolerok remarked that NAIHC has decided to take a cautious advocacy approach, given that any public chastisement of the Administration carries a risk that the Administration will retaliate against NAHASDA funding. However, Mr. Kolerok emphasized that NAIHC staff and Board Members are not being complacent and are active behind the scenes in building relationships and quietly advocating for NAHASDA funding. One participant commented that while a quiet approach is understandable, NAIHC members and tribal communities do not know

enough about why and what approach NAIHC is taking. Because they do not know what NAIHC is doing, the NAIHC members might take an action that is not aligned with NAIHC's behind-the-scenes approach. The participant therefore suggested that NAIHC provide more information to its members about why it is taking this approach. The NAIHC staff and Board responded that they will do more to inform the NAIHC members about its current advocacy efforts.

Ms. McWhirter remarked that on April 7, 2025, from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. ET, NAIHC is hosting a legislative and advocacy strategy session in person at the NAIHC Headquarters, located at 122 C St. NE, Washington, DC 20001. Individuals can also join the session virtually by registering at this [Virtual Meeting Registration link](#). At the session, NAIHC will discuss strategies for advocating for tribal housing during the new Administration.

One participant asked about the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) website being removed from HUD's website. As of April 3, 2024, the ONAP website appears to be back up and running. Mr. Kolerok commented that there are bigger federal agency websites that are also currently defunct, so the removal of the ONAP website was part of a larger problem that federal agencies are facing. However, he remarked that it is reassuring that current Indian housing programs are still intact. This is in contrast to numerous other diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs that the Administration has deliberately targeted. Ms. McWhirter noted that HUD released a memorandum on March 13, 2025, in which HUD specifically stated that the three recent Presidential Executive Orders targeting DEI programs "do not apply to the Department's legal obligation to provide housing for Indian Tribes and their citizens or the government-to-government relationship that underlies those obligations, which are distinct from the DEI programs targeted in the EOs."¹ A copy of that HUD memorandum is attached to this memo.

b. Budget and Appropriations

Mr. Kolerok 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

¹ U.S. Dep't of Housing & Urban Devel., Application of DEI Executive Orders to the Department's Legal Obligations to Indian Tribes and Their Citizens (Mar. 13, 2025).

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

Mr. Kolerok remarked that Congress is currently negotiating a budget reconciliation package, which means there could be changes to the current FY 2025 budget based on any approved budget reconciliation. Mr. Kolerok therefore commented that it may be advisable for tribal advocates to not draw attention to tribal housing at this time, so that the Administration does not decide to reduce funding for tribal housing programs through the budget reconciliation process.

c. Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) Reauthorization

As we have reported previously, the Senate passed a reauthorization bill for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) 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 again that NAIHC will closely focus on what it will take to pass NAHASDA this year. That effort may involve streamlining the NAHASDA bill by deciding which NAHASDA provisions are critical and removing those that are less important.

d. HUD–DOI Joint Task Force on Housing

Ms. McWhirter remarked that on March 17, 2025, HUD Secretary Scott Turner and U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Doug Burgum announced a [joint task force to reduce housing costs and open access to underutilized federal lands suitable for residential development](#). Ms. McWhirter commented that NAIHC does not yet have further information on the task force or how it will affect tribal housing but will provide more information as it becomes available.

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.