



# COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE

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June 9, 2025

The Honorable Janelle Bynum  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1508 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

## **RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship of NAHASDA Reauthorization Bill**

Dear Representative Bynum,

Dai s'la! On behalf of the Coquille Indian Tribe of Oregon, I respectfully request that you co-sponsor the House bill currently being drafted to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). The headquarters of the Coquille Tribe are located in Coos Bay, Oregon, in Coos County, but our members reside throughout the State and beyond, and reauthorization of NAHASDA is an issue of both state-wide and nation-wide importance.

It is our understanding that Representative Troy Downing (R-MT) will be the lead House sponsor of this bill in the current legislative session. We are asking for your assistance in particular as you sit on the House Financial Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over NAHASDA. As with all legislation that aims to meet the government-to-government obligations of the United States to its Native nations, this bill is a bi-partisan effort. Since its initial passage in 1996, NAHASDA has been a landmark example of Tribal self-governance (giving Tribes the sovereign authority to manage housing, healthcare, and other services for their citizens) and a vital federal investment in safe, affordable housing for Native families across the country. NAHASDA has been particularly effective in Oregon, where many tribes – including the Coquille Tribe – suffered under the ill-advised Congressional policy of termination, which stripped away our rights as federally-recognized tribes, along with lands, services and critical funding. The Coquille Tribe was terminated for over 30 years, and restored to recognition in 1989. Since then, we have engaged in a determined effort to rebuild our Tribal government and our communities, and there are fewer things more important to doing so than providing affordable, quality housing to our Tribal members where they reside, as Congress promised in the Coquille Restoration Act. NAHASDA has been critical to that effort.

Over the past two decades, NAHASDA has enabled our Tribe to develop and rehabilitate affordable housing and to provide critical services related to such housing (maintenance, upkeep, and counseling). NAHASDA has enabled tribes throughout the United States to construct more than

40,000 affordable housing units, rehabilitate tens of thousands more, and administer housing and community development programs tailored to local needs. The program's flexibility and effectiveness have made it a bipartisan success story—one that centers around local control for Tribal communities and addresses long-overdue federal commitments. Please see the Congressional Research Service's 2025 report on NAHASDA:

[https://www.congress.gov/crs\\_external\\_products/IF/PDF/IF12905/IF12905.2.pdf](https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/IF/PDF/IF12905/IF12905.2.pdf)

However, NAHASDA was last reauthorized in 2008, and expired in 2013. Despite the efforts of tribes and the National American Indian Housing Council, NAHASDA has not been reauthorized for over a decade. As the policy environment becomes more unpredictable, reauthorizing NAHASDA is not only timely—it is essential.

This legislation would reaffirm the federal government's trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations while modernizing outdated provisions, ensuring program stability, and protecting Native communities from administrative backsliding. It also complements broader policy priorities around expanding housing opportunities for underserved communities and restoring integrity to federal partnerships.

We urge you to join as a co-sponsor to help:

- Reinforce the federal commitment to Tribal housing sovereignty;
- Ensure long-term authorization and funding stability for critical programs like the Indian Housing Block Grant; and
- Support infrastructure, economic development, and housing security in some of the most underinvested parts of the country.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support for Indian Country. We would be available to provide more information or brief your office further at your convenience.

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Brenda Meade, Chairman  
Coquille Indian Tribe

cc: National American Indian Housing Council  
Ed Clay Goodman, Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker, LLP