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MEMORANDUM

June 27, 2025

TO: TRIBAL HOUSING CLIENTS

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

RE: ***NAIHC June 26, 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 June 26, 2025, and updates on other housing matters.

I. NAIHC Legislative Committee

NAIHC Executive Director Rudy Soto, Board Chair Bobby Yandell, and NAIHC Legislative & Program Aide Blythe McWhirter facilitated the Legislative Committee Meeting.

a. Budget and Appropriations

Ms. McWhirter provided a brief update on appropriations. In May 2025, the President transmitted his FY 2026 Budget Request to Congress. Ms. McWhirter commented that Congress is currently focusing on a reconciliation bill. On June 16, 2025, the Senate Finance Committee released its reconciliation bill language. In general, the Senate's bill has the same Tribal protections as the House-passed version of the reconciliation bill (H.R.1, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)). Ms. McWhirter commented that Congress is aiming for a July 4, 2025 deadline for passing the reconciliation bill, but that Congress may have a difficult time meeting that deadline.

Ms. McWhirter commented that the Coalition for Tribal Sovereignty (CTS) 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. One particular letter advocates that Congress protect and safeguard tribal funding from drastic cuts. NAIHC encourages tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) to use that letter as a template to send letters to their own representatives. Ms. McWhirter also commented that the heads of

various federal agencies, such as the Indian Health Service, have vowed to protect tribal funding, which may help influence Congress' decision about tribal funding.

Ms. McWhirter remarked that NAIHC recently held a round table with various tribal housing national coalitions to share insights and information about the new Administration and tribal housing needs. The housing leaders discussed options for addressing other issues, such as the challenges that rural housing communities face. NAIHC will continue this discussion going forward.

b. NAHASDA Reauthorization

As we have reported previously, the Senate passed a Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) reauthorization bill in 2024, but the bill did not make it past the House. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Chair Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Vice Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) have communicated that they are committed to passing NAHASDA again this year. Mr. Soto stated that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has indicated that they will reintroduce NAHASDA this fall. Mr. Soto remarked that NAIHC is focusing on multiple strategies regarding advocating for increased funding for tribal housing. This includes meetings with staff of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to continue to advocate for the reauthorization of NAHASDA.

c. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (TIAC)

HUD is seeking nominations for the HUD TIAC. The TIAC is comprised of 15 Tribal leaders from across Indian Country. The TIAC plays an influential role in ensuring that HUD considers tribal views on issues that impact tribal communities. **All nominations are due through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by July 18, 2025.** More information on how to submit nominations is available at this [link](#).

d. Tribal HUD-VASH expansion.

On April 24, 2025, HUD [released](#) the Public Indian Housing (PIH) Notice 2025-02, the Tribal HUD- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Expansion [Notice](#), making approximately \$2.2 million available to eligible tribes and TDHEs. Through the Tribal HUD-VASH program, tribes and TDHEs provide rental assistance and supportive services to Native American veterans who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Both new tribal/TDHE applicants and existing grantees are eligible for the \$2.2 million funding. Tribes and TDHEs have until **11:59:59 PM EST on August 15, 2025**, to submit applications via www.grants.gov. If you are unable submit your application electronically, contact TribalHUDVASH@hud.gov to request a waiver to this requirement. Applications must include a letter of support from the tribe's/TDHE's partnering U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility's Director.

e. Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) Environmental Review

ONAP will be hosting a webinar series to provide an overview of environmental review streamlining resources available to tribes. Below is a schedule of the webinars.

Webinar Schedule

Topic	Date and Time	Link
Simplified and Streamlined Environmental Reviews	July 24, 2024 2:00-3:30 PM EDT	https://intellor.webex.com/intellor/j.php?MTID=ma8dc9c7ed542a014d073f70180db8e38
Endangered Species Act: Streamlining Section 7 Compliance	August 5, 2025 2:00-3:30 PM EDT	https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=e7mQz0a-AEqXAIHOT_G39iZmort7FqJHq9lyiZejF8FUOFZESERXUTRKQjJGVEFLTVIISIMxUUJFUy4u&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&route=shorturl
Endangered Species Act: Streamlining for HUD Projects in Washington State	August 12, 2025 2:00-3:00 PM EDT	https://forms.office.com/r/F9TEjCiXr0
Endangered Species Act: Streamlining for HUD Projects in Oregon	August 14, 2025 2:00-3:00 PM EDT	https://forms.office.com/r/P46F5SBUSV

f. 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 Legal Symposium on November 17–20, 2025 at the Choctaw Casino & Resort in Durant, Oklahoma. Registration will be available soon.

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.