



215 SW Washington Street, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97204


T 503.242.1745
F 503.242.1072

HOBBSSTRAUS.COM

MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2026

TO: TRIBAL HOUSING CLIENTS

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

RE: ***NAIHC January 15, 2026 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 January 15, 2026, and updates on other housing matters.

I. NAIHC Legislative Committee

NAIHC Federal Affairs Associate Blythe McWhirter and Chris Kolerok from Alaska, the Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, facilitated the Legislative Committee Meeting.

a. Appropriations and Federal Shutdown

Ms. McWhirter and Mr. Kolerok provided an update on federal appropriations. They commented that legislation to reopen the federal government was signed into law on November 12, 2025. The bill included a Continuing Resolution (CR) funding the federal government at fiscal year (FY) 2025 levels to January 30, 2026; reversal of the layoffs by the Administration during the shutdown; and full-year funding for three of twelve appropriations bills: Military Construction/Veterans Affairs; Agriculture; and Legislative Branch. Congress will need to reach an agreement on the remaining appropriations for FY 2026 by January 30, 2026, or there will be another federal government shutdown. Mr. Kolerok commented that Congress is unlikely to pass the remaining FY 2026 appropriations by January 30, 2026, given the tension around other key topics. The House recently passed a minibuss, H.R. 6938, Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026. This combines several FY 2026 spending bills and is an efficient way to move a few of them through before the current CR expires. There has generally been strong bipartisanship on many of the funding bills. The Senate is currently considering that minibuss and is expected to vote on it soon.

Ms. McWhirter also shared the following chart of the status of the various Appropriations bills:

Appropriations Bill	House	Senate	Status (as of Jan 2026)
Agriculture	Passed & Enacted	Passed & Enacted	Enacted into law as part of CR + full funding bill t ()
Military Construction – Veterans Affairs (MilCon-VA)	Passed & Enacted	Passed & Enacted	Enacted into law as part of CR + full funding bill t ()
Legislative Branch	Passed & Enacted	Passed & Enacted	Enacted into law as part of CR + full funding bill t ()
Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS)	Passed (Minibus)	Pending Senate floor	House passed as part of a multibill minibus; awaiting Senate action (Congress.gov)
Energy & Water Development	Passed (Minibus)	Pending Senate floor	House passed as part of multibill minibus; awaiting Senate action (Congress.gov)
Interior & Environment	Passed (Minibus)	Pending Senate floor	House passed as part of multibill minibus; awaiting Senate action (Congress.gov)
Financial Services & General Government	Passed (Minibus)	Under Senate consideration	House passed; Senate yet to finish full floor action (Congress.gov)
National Security / State & Foreign Operations	Passed (Minibus)	Under Senate consideration	House passed; Senate action ongoing (Congress.gov)
Transportation – HUD (THUD)	Not Passed	Not Passed	Outstanding; funded under CR through Jan. 30, 2026 (Congress.gov)
Labor-HHS-Education	Not Passed	Committee/Partial	Outstanding; not passed full chamber (CRFB)
Homeland Security	Not Passed	Not Passed	Outstanding; no full chamber passage (CRFB)
Defense	Not Passed	Not Passed	Outstanding; no full chamber passage (CRFB)

b. NAHASDA Reauthorization

Ms. McWhirter remarked that there are no significant updates on the reauthorization of Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA). As we reported previously, on July 30, 2025, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCAI) Vice Chair, Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced an amendment (S.Amdt.3120 to S.2296) to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to reauthorize NAHASDA. However, the NAHASDA reauthorization was not included in final NDAA amendment, so Congress will need to reintroduce it in 2026. Congress is currently drafting the text of the reauthorization bill. Ms. McWhirter commented on some tribal coalition advocacy efforts, noting that National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and NAIHC have been partnering to hold webinars and otherwise advocate for NAHASDA reauthorization. Additionally, NCAI will be hosting a [webinar](#) on January 21, 2026 2:00 PM ET on [“Addressing the Native Housing Crisis: Overview of NAHASDA Reauthorization for the 119th Congress”](#). The webinar will cover the importance of NAHASDA and will provide talking points for tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) to use in their own NAHASDA advocacy efforts. NAIHC also has template letters that tribes and TDHEs can use to advocate for NAHASDA.

c. 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.

NAIHC has scheduled its Legislative Summit and Gala to be held on February 3–5, 2026, at the Capitol Hilton in Washington, D.C. The Gala is also a new element intended to bring

Congressmembers and staff to a function where they can meet tribal housing program leaders and staff. Registration is open on the [NAIHC website](#).

Additionally, NAIHC will be holding its 52nd Annual Convention & Tradeshow in Anchorage, Alaska on May 3–6, 2026. In conjunction with that event, NAIHC will be holding a 2026 Housing All of Our Relatives Summit at the end of the Annual Convention, on May 7–8, 2026, to support the tribal communities that have been impacted by environmental disasters.

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.