



# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

## The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #SAC-12-031

### TITLE: Creation of NCAI Task Force on NAHASDA Reauthorization

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 1990s, Indian tribes, tribal housing authorities, and others, came together to craft a new vision of how housing and housing related community development programs and services should be administered in the era of Indian self-determination and self-governance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is the main legal authority for the United States to fulfill its trust obligations to low-income American Indian and Alaska Natives to provide safe, decent, and sanitary housing; and

**WHEREAS**, through NAHASDA the federal government acknowledged that, “the Congress, through treaties, statutes, and the general course of dealing with Indian tribes, has assumed a trust responsibility for the protection and preservation of Indian tribes and for working with tribes and their members to improve their housing conditions and socioeconomic status so that they are able to take greater responsibility for their own economic condition;” and

**WHEREAS**, NAHASDA establishes the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) and authorizes funding for housing and housing-related infrastructure and community development in American Indian and Alaska Native communities; and

**WHEREAS**, NAHASDA is comprised of housing programs for Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages, and is due for reauthorization by Congress by September 2013; and

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT  
**Jefferson Keel**  
*Chickasaw Nation*

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
**Juana Majel Dixon**  
*Pauma Band of Mission Indians*

RECORDING SECRETARY  
**Edward Thomas**  
*Central Council of Tlingit & Haida  
Indian Tribes of Alaska*

TREASURER  
**W. Ron Allen**  
*Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe*

#### REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA  
**Bill Martin**  
*Central Council of Tlingit & Haida  
Indian Tribes of Alaska*

EASTERN OKLAHOMA  
**S. Joe Crittenden**  
*Cherokee Nation*

GREAT PLAINS  
**Robert Shepherd**  
*Sisseton Wahpeton*

MIDWEST  
**Matthew Wesaw**  
*Pokagon Band of Potawatomi*

NORTHEAST  
**Lance Gumbs**  
*Shinnecock Indian Nation*

NORTHWEST  
**Fawn Sharp**  
*Quinault Indian Nation*

PACIFIC  
**Don Arnold**  
*Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
**Scott Russell**  
*Crow Tribe*

SOUTHEAST  
**Larry Townsend**  
*Lumbee Tribe*

SOUTHERN PLAINS  
**George Thurman**  
*Sac and Fox Nation*

SOUTHWEST  
**Joe Garcia**  
*Ohkay Owingeh*

WESTERN  
**Ned Norris, Jr**  
*Tohono O'odham Nation*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Jacqueline Johnson Pata**  
*Tlingit*

#### NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org

**WHEREAS**, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), the only national organization solely representing the housing interests of Native people who reside in Indian communities, Alaska Native Villages, and on native Hawaiian Home Lands, was instrumental in shaping the debate and in drafting what became the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and facilitated a process to create a unified position on subsequent reauthorizations of NAHASDA in 2002, and 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAIHC conducted a comprehensive outreach effort that included meetings comprised of countless hours of discussions by hundreds of individuals and tribes, and these outreach meetings provided input from tribal housing programs to be included in a consensus-based position on NAHASDA reauthorization to be provided at the onset of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, professionals and individuals working in tribal housing management possess the extensive experience necessary to assess NAHASDA's original intent and to take the lead in discussions on best practices and barriers that Indian housing programs face on a regular basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the spirit of NAHASDA recognizes that the decision making authority for the housing services and programs lies with the tribal governments, and tribal leadership are essential to the development of federal Indian policy with regards to housing; and

**WHEREAS**, NCAI believes that tribal leadership should be actively involved in the process for reauthorization of NAHASDA and recommends the creation of a joint NCAI Task Force on NAHASDA reauthorization to facilitate involvement of tribal leadership.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NCAI, the largest and oldest national Indian organization, shall create a NCAI NAHASDA Reauthorization Task Force which will be tasked with developing and advocating in consultation with tribes and tribal housing programs around the country proposed additions and amendments to the NAHASDA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that involvement on the NCAI NAHASDA Reauthorization Task Force be reflective of the diverse tribal representation across Indian Country, and that membership in NCAI is not a requirement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI NAHASDA Reauthorization Task Force will operate strictly through consensus; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI NAHASDA Reauthorization Task Force shall advance with the United States Congress all consensus positions developed in coordination and consultation with the tribes and tribal housing programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NCAI recognizes the work and efforts of the NAIHC to develop and provide a consensus-based position on the NAHASDA reauthorization for consideration in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress and will actively participate in this process; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2012 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Sacramento Convention Center from October 21-26, 2012 in Sacramento, California, with a quorum present.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary