



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #ABQ-19-071

**TITLE: Support the Immediate Reauthorization of the Native American
Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act**

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NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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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, American Indian and Alaska Native communities have traditionally experienced some of the most deplorable housing conditions in the nation, including overcrowding, substandard living conditions, and high cost of living burdens relative to household income; and

WHEREAS, until the mid-1990s, federal housing programs serving American Indian and Alaska Native families were administratively inefficient and failed to recognize the unique social, cultural, and economic needs of Native American communities; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Congress responded to the growing housing crisis in Indian Country by passing the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), which reduced burdensome and excessive regulation, affirmed tribal self-determination, and permitted the innovation and local problem-solving that is crucial to the success of community-based housing strategies; 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 authorized the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG), which funds housing and housing-related infrastructure and community development in American Indian and Alaska Native communities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, NAHASDA has produced remarkable results since its passage, including the construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of more than 114,000 homes in Native American communities and the provision of housing-related assistance to tens of thousands of American Indian and Alaska Native families through home loans, rental assistance, financial literacy counseling, down payment assistance, and numerous other housing-related programs; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the successes of NAHASDA, housing remains a critical need, as demonstrated by the Native American Housing Needs Study conducted by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, which determined that 68,000 additional units would be needed to address the housing shortage in Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, NAHASDA was reauthorized in 2002 and 2008, and expired on September 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Congress included language in the 2008 reauthorization limiting NAHASDA funding for the Cherokee Nation; and

WHEREAS, a bill to reauthorize NAHASDA is expected to be introduced in Congress imminently, which thereby necessitates a firm commitment from Indian Country on input for such important legislation; and

WHEREAS, in the reauthorization of NAHASDA, no restrictions should be placed on how tribal governments utilize the funds, and any changes to NAHASDA, including changes to the funding formula, should only be changed through government to government negotiations with the tribal nations; and

WHEREAS, the NCAI strongly opposes, as a matter of public policy, any language in the NAHASDA reauthorization imposing additional restrictions on funding eligibility for the Cherokee Nation, or any federally recognized tribe, Alaska Native village, or Native Hawaiian organization; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall modify and replace NCAI Resolution #REN-13-070.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) hereby urges Congress to reauthorize NAHASDA and uphold its commitment to government to government negotiations as changes to NAHASDA are considered; and

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

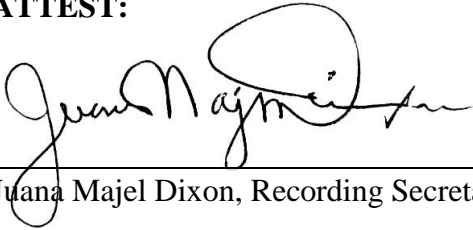
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, October 20-25, 2019, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary