

2009 Winter Conference Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 -03

"RESTORE AND PROTECT THE INDIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT FUNDING"

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest 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 rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is comprised of housing programs for Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages and Native Hawaiian communities; and

WHEREAS, NAHASDA enhances tribal capacity to address substandard housing and infrastructure conditions in Indian country by encouraging greater self-management of housing programs and leveraging of scarce Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) dollars; and

WHEREAS, NAHASDA establishes a formula for the IHBG based on Formula Current Assisted Stock (FCAS) and need; and

WHEREAS, federal lawsuits against the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have been filed by tribes and tribal housing authorities related to FCAS ("Claims"); and

WHEREAS, in FY 2008, HUD retained nearly \$20 million of the IHBG as a means to pay "Claims" and, in FY 2009, may continue to retain IHBG funding for "Claims"; and

WHEREAS, so long as HUD holds back IHBG funding for Claims, funding for Native American housing programs is diminished, causing national harm to all tribal housing programs; and

WHEREAS, the number of "Claims" lawsuits has not been made available to the tribes, the total dollar amount in "Claims" has also not been made available to tribes, and the number and dollar amounts of "Claims" paid by HUD (if any) has not been made available to tribes; now

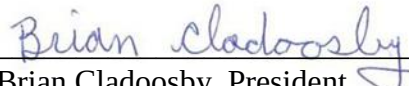
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians urges the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to immediately disclose the number of unsettled Formula Current Assisted Stock lawsuits, the total dollar amount in claims for such lawsuits, and number and dollar amounts of claims paid by HUD (if any); and

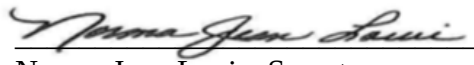
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ATNI calls for HUD to immediately disburse all Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funds previously withheld in FY 2008 and HUD should not be allowed to hold back any IHBG funds in subsequent Fiscal Years for any Formula Current Assisted Stock claims; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that no appropriations made for IHBG or the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 shall be used to pay Formula Current Assisted Stock claims.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2009 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Tulalip Resort & Casino, Tulalip, Washington on February 19, 2009 with a quorum present.


Brian Cladoosby, President


Norma Jean Louie, Secretary