

2009 Winter Conference Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #09 - 05

"SUPPORT FOR FUNDING NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING PROGRAMS"

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, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 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 United States (U.S.) Congress recognized the need for housing assistance and economic development in Indian Country when they passed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$854 million for FY 2010 and \$875 million in FY 2011 just to keep pace with inflation since the program was funded at \$600 million in FY 1997, yet all indications are that at least \$1 billion is needed annually to meet tribal housing needs nationally; and

WHEREAS, previous Presidential budget requests included significant reductions for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development budget that includes a significant reduction for the Indian Community Development Block Grant and elimination of funding for Rural Housing and Economic Development programs that are vitally important to tribal housing programs; and

WHEREAS, the Senate has proposed a new program to provide Economic Development Assistance to Tribes with broad support from tribal housing programs at an initial level of \$12 million; and

WHEREAS, previous Presidential budget requests proposed a reduction of the Native American Housing Block Grant funds, but should have been funded at \$20 million for FY 2010 and FY 2011 to address the vast unmet housing needs of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, previous Presidential budget requests proposed a reduction in funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service Sanitations Facilities Construction Program, an infrastructure program vital to health and well-being of our people; and

WHEREAS, previous Presidential budget requests proposed complete elimination of funding for programs vital to tribal housing programs, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program and U.S. Department of Agriculture direct loan programs for single and multi-families; and

WHEREAS, Indian Country sorely needs these programs fully funded to support the development of affordable housing for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians who face some of the most deplorable housing and living conditions in the United States; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians urges Congress to reverse cuts and elimination of funding for tribal housing programs that are so vital to Indian Country, within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,

- U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
- U.S. Department of Agriculture,
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Native American Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$20 million for FY 2010 and FY 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Indian Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$854 million for FY 2010 and \$875 million for FY 2011 just to keep pace with inflation since the program was funded in FY 1997; and

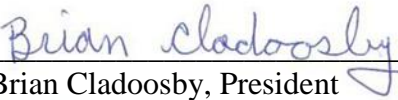
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ATNI requests an increase of funding from Congress to at least keep pace with inflation from FY 1997 funding levels and also increased levels of funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant be at a level commensurate with the \$1 billion need; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, at no time will the funding provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 have a negative monetary impact on FY 2010 or FY 2011 funding levels; and


BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, ATNI calls upon Congress to conduct hearings and field hearings to document the impact of NAHASDA and the substantial unmet funding needs for Native American housing.

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