



2011 Annual Conference Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #11 - 61

“SUPPORT OF ACTIONS AND POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HOUSING COUNCIL”

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, Executive Orders, 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 to 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/Alaska Natives and tribes 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 the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) is to effectively and efficiently promote and support American Indian, Alaska Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians in their self-determined goal to provide culturally relevant and quality affordable housing for native people; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2011, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) released and marked up the FY 2012 THUD Appropriations Bill; and

WHEREAS, that Bill contains several provisions concerning unexpended Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) funds that Northwest Indian Housing Authority (NWIHA) feels are best dealt with in the negotiated rulemaking process; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2011, Cheryl Causley, the duly elected Chairwoman of NAIHC, wrote a letter to the Honorable Tom Latham, Chairman of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, and the Honorable John W. Olver, the ranking member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, expressing these concerns (a copy of the letter has been attached to this resolution):

“The NAIHC Board and Membership is concerned that fiscal year FY 2012 appropriations language may include provisions that would:

- *Prohibit tribes from receiving fiscal year FY 2012 funding if their current Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) “unspent” funding balance is \$10 million or more;*
- *Require tribes to spend their FY 2012 appropriated funds within 3 years of receiving the FY 2012 IHBG allocation; and*
- *Not address the serious training and technical assistance needs of tribes and their housing programs.”*

; and

WHEREAS, NAIHC has set forth in that letter, recommendations on each of these concerns to protect funding levels and established processes for funding of all Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities and Tribal Housing Authorities under NAHASDA and other programs that benefit housing in Indian country; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2011, NWIHA received correspondence stating that a group calling itself “A Coalition for Indian Housing (ACIH),” opposes the positions taken by NAIHC; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly supports the September 8, 2011 letter by Chairwoman Causley on behalf of the National American Indian Housing Council and specifically opposes any legislative language that reduces or eliminates unspent Indian Housing Block Grant funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ATNI requests government-to-government consultation before any legislation is considered regarding unspent Indian Housing Block Grant funds; and

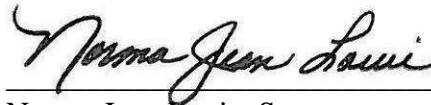
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that ATNI fully supports the NAIHC request for Congress to commission the Government Accountability Office to undertake a study of unexpended housing funds.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2011 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Tulalip Resort Casino in Tulalip, Washington, September 19-22, 2011 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary