



2012 Mid-Year Convention Lincoln City, Oregon

RESOLUTION #12 - 29

**“SUPPORTING INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN
HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA)
BLOCK GRANT AND SPECIFIED ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE MAINTENANCE
AND OPERATION OF DWELLING UNITS CONSTRUCTED WITH NAHASDA FUNDS”**

PREAMBLE

We the members of 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, 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 Northwest Indian Housing Association (NWIHA) represents thirty-eight Indian Housing Authorities and Tribally Designated Housing Entities in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and Annette Island, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Mission of NWIHA is to promote safe, sanitary, decent and affordable housing for Tribal members in the Pacific Northwest, which it accomplishes by providing training and education opportunities; providing a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues; advocating for the collective benefit of all members; effectively linking members to information and financial resources; and working collaboratively with its industry partners; and

WHEREAS, housing conditions and the availability of housing in Indian country fall far below those of the general US population; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 US Census, nearly 12 percent of Native American households lack plumbing compared to 1.2 percent of the general US population; and

WHEREAS, Indian households are nearly three times more likely to be severely overcrowded; and

WHEREAS, Native American Housing Assistance Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) Indian Housing Block Grant recipients are authorized and encouraged to develop new housing for low-income American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, when such new housing is developed, the recipients are required to devote time and resources to operate and maintain those units, yet neither the block grant nor the allocation formula designate any funding to recipients specifically to operate and maintain such units; and

WHEREAS, the funds made available each year through the NAHASDA Indian Housing Block Grant are not sufficient to both provide for development of new housing and for the maintenance and operation of housing built with those funds; and

WHEREAS, there is still a substantial and increasing unmet need for affordable housing for low-income American Indians and Alaska Natives, and that IHBG recipients who construct new units to try and meet such need find themselves in a difficult and untenable position with regarding to maintaining and operating those units, which acts as a disincentive for developing new units; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2013 budget requests and the Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Committee bill proposes \$650 million for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Program, which provides the bulk of funding for Indian housing,

which amount represents a zero increase from the past several years and, taking inflation into account, represents a decrease in funding in real dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Program funds essential infrastructure for our communities, including sewer and running water; and

WHEREAS, rising costs and associated inflationary factors have hampered the development of infrastructure in Indian country; and

WHEREAS, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) provides its on-site Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) Program which enables Tribes to effectively manage and carry out Indian housing activities by providing such on-site training and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY 2013 budget request zeroed out funding for NAIHC T&TA Program; now

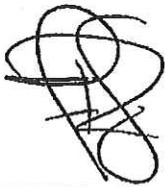
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI joins with NWIHA in strongly urging the Congress of the United States to:

- (1) Fund the IHBG Program at \$875 million (the amount necessary to keep minimal pace with inflation); and
- (2) Fund the NAIHC T&TA Program at \$4.0 million; and

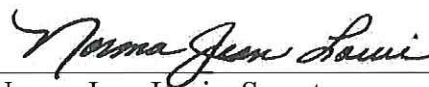
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI joins with Northwest Indian Housing Association in strongly urging the Congress of the United States to establish a separate line item, in addition to the Indian Housing Block Grant appropriation, to fund recipients for the operation and maintenance of dwelling units developed with Native American Housing Assistance Self-Determination Act funding.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2012 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Chinook Winds Casino Resort, Lincoln City, Oregon on May 21 – 24, 2012, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary