



## **2013 Mid-Year Convention Airway Heights, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #13 - 39**

#### **“SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA), INCLUDING THE PROPOSED CONSENSUS AMENDMENTS FROM 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 Northwest Indian Housing Association (NWIHA) represents thirty-eight Indian Housing Authorities, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE), and Tribal Housing Programs and Departments in Idaho, Oregon, 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**, NWIHA is represented at ATNI through ATNI's Housing Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, NWIHA's members carry out their housing activities largely under the auspices of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA), which was first adopted in 1996, and which has been reauthorized twice since that time; and

**WHEREAS**, NAHASDA was last reauthorized in October 2008, and will expire on September 30, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, NAHASDA provides the authorization for the annual Indian Housing Block Grant, which provides the funding for NWIHA's members affordable housing activities; and

**WHEREAS**, NAHASDA provides flexibility for tribes and TDHEs in the operation of their housing programs, allowing them to develop innovative methods for addressing housing issues in a manner responsive to their specific tribal communities; and

**WHEREAS**, NAHASDA provides the means for tribes and TDHEs to develop successful and effective tribal and TDHE housing programs; and

**WHEREAS**, while NAHASDA has been effective and successful, tribes and TDHEs have identified a number of ways in which NAHASDA can be improved; and

**WHEREAS**, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) conducted outreach among the various housing regions, including NWIHA, for input on proposed amendments that could strengthen and improve NAHASDA; and

**WHEREAS**, based on that outreach and follow-up meetings of the NAIHC Legislative Committee and Board, NAIHC developed – through a consensus-based process – a proposed set of amendments for Congress to adopt as part of NAHASDA reauthorization, which set of amendments is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, NWIHA's members have provided input into the consensus-based process and agree that the proposed amendments set out in **Exhibit A** are in the best interests of Indian housing programs within the Northwest region and across the United States; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby joins with the Northwest Indian Housing Association to strongly urge the Congress of the United States to:

- (1) Reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act prior to its expiration on September 30, 2013, for a minimum of five years;
- (2) As part of NAHASDA reauthorization, adopt the proposed amendments set out in Exhibit A.

; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI respectfully requests the National American Indian Housing Council, the National Congress of American Indians, and all other regional Native American associations and organizations join NWIHA in supporting this Resolution.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2013 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort Casino, Airway Heights, Washington on May 13 – 16, 2013 with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary