



2015 Mid-Year Convention Warm Springs, Oregon

RESOLUTION #15 - 22

“CALLING UPON CONGRESS AND THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) TO HONOR THE CONGRESSIONAL INTENT OF SECTION 703 OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT AND RESTORE FULL FUNDING TO 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 Northwest Indian Housing Association (NWIHA) represents thirty-eight Indian Housing Authorities, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and Tribal Housing Programs and Departments 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 opportunities are among the most significant for Indian Country in advancing sovereignty, and developing prosperous, healthy communities and economies; and

WHEREAS, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) was landmark legislation because, for the first time under any HUD program, the right to self-governance and self-determination for tribes was formally recognized in a federal statute; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of Section 703 of NAHASDA implements the original spirit and intent of NAHASDA, whereby tribes control and design programs and services to meet their housing needs; and

WHEREAS, NAHASDA Section 703 states that funds shall be appropriated each year for a national organization representing Native American housing interests to provide Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) to Indian housing authorities and tribally designated housing entities, so that tribes can oversee and control the delivery of tribal-specific T&TA to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) is the only experienced and qualified national organization that is competent to provide T&TA to Indian housing authorities and TDHEs; and

WHEREAS, in some NAIHC regions, tribes have experienced positive training and technical assistance outcomes, including cost savings, improved quality and greater relevancy, through the delivery of T&TA by the regional tribal housing associations; and

WHEREAS, President William Jefferson Clinton on November 6, 2000 issued Executive Order 13175 that stated in Section 5:

“Consultation. (a) Each agency shall have an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in the development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications. Within 30 days after the effective date of this order, the head of each agency shall designate an official with principal responsibility for the agency’s implementation of this order. Within 60 days of the effective date of this order, the designated official shall submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a description of the agency’s consultation process;” and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the aforementioned Presidential Executive Order, HUD published its Tribal Government-to-Government Consultation policy on September 28, 2001 with the purpose to “enhance communication and coordination between HUD and federally recognized Indian tribes;” and

WHEREAS, Section IV of the policy states that “when proposed federal government policies, programs or actions are determined by HUD as having tribal implications, HUD will notify the affected tribe(s) and take affirmative steps to consult and collaborate directly with the tribe(s) or its (their) designee;” and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2004, President George W. Bush issued his Executive Memorandum, *Government-to-Government Relationship with Tribal Governments* recommitting the federal government to work with federally-recognized Native American tribal governments on a government-to-government basis and strongly supporting and respecting tribal sovereignty and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2011 and in the following years, up to and including FY 2014, the HUD “Transformation Initiative,” had been presented to Congress, which ignored the Presidential Executive Orders and HUD’s own policies; this Transformation Initiative required a portion of HUD’s budget, including appropriations for the Indian Housing Block Grant program – be transferred to the Transformation Initiative to provide general HUD programs; and

WHEREAS, during the past several appropriations cycles, the Administration has proposed and Congress has adopted language in the annual Indian Housing Block Grant appropriation that directly undercuts Section 703 by requiring HUD to allocate the T&TA funds under the IHBG, by competition, to national and regional organizations; and

WHEREAS, similar language has now been proposed to be incorporated into the NAHASDA reauthorization legislation; and

WHEREAS, the provision of T&TA to Indian Country through the HUD Transformation Initiative and through the national and regional competitive process is directly contrary to Section 703 of NAHASDA, where Section 703 was requested and supported by tribes throughout Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the provision of T&TA through this process has significant tribal implications, yet HUD has never conducted any government-to-government negotiations with the tribes over this proposal in direct contravention of the Presidential Executive Orders and HUD’s own Tribal Government-to-Government Consultation policy; and

WHEREAS, each year since 2006, tribes have passed resolutions and have urged Congress to continue to implement the letter and spirit of NAHASDA by designating a portion of Indian Housing Block Grant funds to the National American Indian Housing Council to provide tribal-specific T&TA; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby urges Congress and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to honor and implement Section 703 of NAHASDA and provide to a national organization such amounts necessary for T&TA to tribes, tribal housing authorities, and tribally designated housing entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Training and Technical Assistance from HUD to Indian Country should not be funded through the Transformation Initiative, and that no funds from the Indian Housing Block Grant should be transferred to the Initiative for this or any other purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby calls upon Congress to protect the existing language in Section 703 and to not amend it to authorize competitive allocation of T&TA funds to regional and national organizations; and

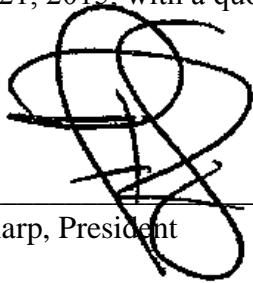
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the National American Indian Housing Council's recognition that positive outcomes have been achieved through the delivery of training and technical assistance by some regional tribal housing associations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI supports the National American Indian Housing Council's commitment to collaborate with regional tribal housing associations that have successfully delivered T&TA within their regions to ensure that they remain able to deliver quality T&TA services to tribes in their regions and that equitable resources remain available to them for that purpose, through subcontracts or otherwise; and

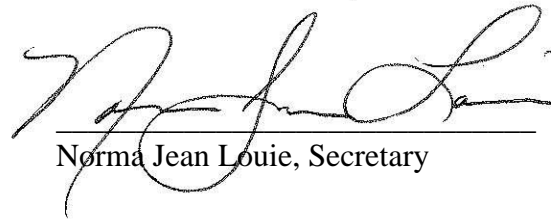
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians urges the National Congress of American Indians to join the Northwest Indian Housing Association in supporting this resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Spa, Warm Springs, Oregon on May 18-21, 2015, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary