



## **2015 Annual Convention Spokane, Washington**

### **RESOLUTION #15 - 49**

**“URGING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT (NAHASDA) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, FOR A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS”**

### **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 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; a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues; advocates 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'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 expired 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 sets out the statutory requirements and authorizations for those 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**, NAHASDA reauthorization bills have been introduced in the Congress of the United States of America - in the Senate as S.710 and in the House of Representatives as H.R. 360; and

**WHEREAS**, the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) has worked closely with Congress to develop both the Senate and House bills; and

**WHEREAS**, with the expiration of the current NAHASDA statute, timely legislative action is critical; and

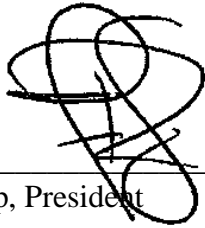
**WHEREAS**, within S. 710 and H.R. 360, there are many good provisions, including timelines for departmental processes, use of NAHASDA funds to leverage other funds (or to fulfill matching requirements), new authority to use Indian Health Service sanitation facilities funding when building HUD-assisted homes and demonstration projects to encourage private investment in Tribal communities and favorable amendments of the Brook Amendment – not to mention the multi-year reauthorization of both the Indian Housing Block Grant and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant programs and related loan guarantee programs; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI does hereby urge the Congress of the United States to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act as soon as possible, for a minimum of five years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges the National Congress of American Indians, the NAIHC, and the eight (8) other regional NAIHC housing organizations to join the NWIHA in supporting this resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Spokane, Washington on September 14-17, 2015, with a quorum present.



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Fawn Sharp, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary