

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2023

Honorable Patrick McHenry
Chairman
House Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Maxine Waters
Ranking Member
House Financial Services Committee
4340 O'Neill HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Congressional Native American Caucus Support the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act Amendment to the NDAA

Dear Chairman McHenry and Chairman Rogers,

As you prepare to conference with the Senate on the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we write as members of the Congressional Native American Caucus to urge you to include Senate amendment #1078, the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

NAHASDA was passed in 1996 to make it easier for tribes to access Department of Housing and Urban Development programs by creating a block grant for tribes and other native communities, allowing them to design programs to best fit their needs on a local level. It has succeeded in native communities throughout the United States since its enactment.

NAHASDA expired ten years ago, and though it has been extremely effective, needed updates and changes to the authorization will bring the law up to date, make it more efficient, and improve the benefits to the tribes and native communities who utilize its programs.

Some of the improvements to NAHASDA include:

- Consolidated environmental reviews, minimizing the time and red tape tribal housing projects currently encounter.
- Authorization of the Tribal HUD-VASH Program, to assist at risk veterans by providing housing vouchers, coupled with healthcare services.
- Increases the 50-year limit on tribal land leases to 99 years, ensuring long-term certainty for tribes to incentivize financing for housing construction.

- Streamlines the approval process for federal guarantees of mortgages under the Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program, encouraging greater lender participation to better serve program users.
- Allows for increased oversight of tribal programs that violate program rules.

These are just a few of the many benefits comprised by the Senate amendment, providing valuable tools to the tribes and native communities who access and administer these programs to afford much-needed homes to their community members.

We respectfully request that you support the inclusion of the NAHASDA amendment in the FY24 NDAA package. We appreciate your efforts to supporting tribal issues in the past and your continued work with the native communities in your home states.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to Sofia Deiro (sofia.deiro@mail.house.gov) in Co-Chair Cole's office, or Vittoria Casey (vittoria.casey@mail.house.gov) in Co-Chair Davids' office.

Sincerely,



Tom Cole, Co-Chair
Congressional Native American Caucus



Sharice L. Davids, Co-Chair
Congressional Native American Caucus