



The Federal Monitor

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News of Issues Affecting Tribes and Tribal Housing Programs

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The National American Indian Housing Council is a not-for-profit organization representing tribes and tribal housing organizations on affordable housing, mortgage lending, finance, and economic development issues.

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Congress Approves Budget Resolution for FY'06

On April 28th the Senate, by a vote of [52-47](#), and the House, by a vote of [214-211](#), passed [H. Con. Res. 95](#), a concurrent budget resolution that sets spending limits and tax cuts for the next five years for Congress. Under the budget resolution, funding for total domestic discretionary funding, outside defense and international aid, totals \$373 billion, a reduction of \$23 billion from FY 2005 levels. Over the next five years the total reduction will equal \$212 billion. The impacts on Indian housing cannot be directly identified in the Resolution language. The Committees on Appropriations will now consider the spending limits for the specific programs. On that note, NAIHC reports that Sens. Conrad Burns (R-MT) and Tim Johnson (D-SD), members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, have submitted the funding level requests made by NAIHC in their personal requests to the HUD Subcommittee.

Senator Akaka Introduces Native American Veterans Home Loan Bill

On April 28th Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI) introduced S. 917. This would make the pilot program for direct housing loans for Native American Veterans permanent. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The Veterans Direct Home Loans for Native Americans are available to eligible Native American veterans who wish to purchase or construct a home on trust lands.

NAIHC hires Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP

NAIHC hired [Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP](#) to assist in lobbying efforts for Indian housing throughout the nation. Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP, is a firm with more than 250 lawyers and representing Indian tribal governments and other tribal organizations. Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP's Indian practice consists of five full-time lawyers, including Paul Moorehead, former Majority Staff Director of the Senate Indian Affairs under former Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) and Brian Gunn, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Former HUD Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing Michael Liu hired by lobbying firm

NAIHC Office of Government Affairs has learned Former HUD Assistant Secretary Michael Liu has been hired by [Dutko Worldwide](#) lobbying firm as Senior Executive Vice President. Dutko Worldwide is a multidisciplinary practice specializing in government affairs.

NAIHC Office of Government Affairs hires new Legislative Assistant

Gwen Salt replaces Kim Baca, who accepted the position of Interim Executive Director for the Native American Journalists Association, as the new Legislative Assistant for NAIHC's Office of Governmental Affairs. Ms. Salt, a member of the Navajo Nation, received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Arizona. Formerly a legislative associate for the Navajo Nation Washington Office, Gwen was the Native American Coordinator on the Navajo Nation for the Kerry For President campaign.