



May 6, 2009

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St S.W.
Washington D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan:

On behalf of the members of the National American Indian Housing Council (“NAIHC”), I am writing with regard to the implementation of the *Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2008*, which was signed into law on October 14, 2008. In addition to updating the underlying statute with meaningful reforms, the new law requires the initiation of a negotiated rulemaking by January 14, 2009, and the establishment of a negotiated rulemaking committee by April 14, 2009. The NAIHC strongly supported procedural changes to the statute’s negotiated rulemaking process to ensure tribal involvement and timely implementation of regulations.

On January 7 and January 29, 2009, the NAIHC sent letters to HUD’s Office of Native American Programs to assist with HUD’s implementation of negotiated rulemaking. The NAIHC provided a categorization of the amendments into four areas so that the rulemaking can be accomplished in a disciplined and timely manner.

I respectfully note that the statutory deadline to establish the negotiated rulemaking committee has passed and we urge you to establish the committee so that it may begin negotiations on regulations to implement the new law. We are especially concerned that HUD has not made a determination, at a minimum, on the amendments that are self-executing and, we believe, require no rulemaking prior to implementation.

Thank you again for your support of the mission of the NAIHC and your ongoing commitment for housing and economic development in Native American communities across the country. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marty Shuravloff
Chairman