



MEMORANDUM

June 29, 2020

To: Tribal Housing Clients

From:  Ed Clay Goodman

Re: **NAHASDA Reauthorization Bill**

On June 25, 2020, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced a bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (“NAHASDA”). Below is a brief overview of the bill. A copy of the bill is attached.

Senators John Hoeven (R-ND), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and Tom Udall (D-NM), Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, John Barrasso, (R-WY), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Martha McSally (R-AZ), Jon Tester (D-MT), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Tina Smith (D-MN), and Steve Daines (R-MT) introduced the NAHASDA reauthorization bill S. 4090, which has been referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Senator Hoeven stated that “the bipartisan legislation we introduced will reauthorize an expired native housing law and provide reforms to over regulated and burdened housing programs. By advancing this legislation, tribal communities will have increased access to affordable housing and greater control over the development of these projects, allowing for decisions to be made by those who best understand the needs of their people.”

The bill includes provisions that would:

- Consolidate the number of environmental reviews that a tribal housing project must undergo in order to begin construction;
- Empower Indian Tribes to develop their own rental housing laws, including waivers of certain HUD rental housing requirements and lease termination procedures if a valid tribal ordinance is in place;
- Strengthen the role of the HUD Office of Native American Programs by creating an Assistant Secretary of Indian Housing at the Department;
- Authorize the Tribal HUD VASH program to provide Native homeless veterans with housing and health care services;
- Re-create the Tribal Drug Elimination Program to provide grant funding to curb drug use and sales in reservation housing, additional police resources, housing counseling, and community gathering events;

- Make tribes eligible for the HUD Continuum of Care program; and
- Authorize NAHASDA and 184 Loan programs through 2031.

We are currently analyzing the text of the bill and will provide a follow-up memorandum with a more detailed discussion.

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If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Ed Clay Goodman at egoodman@hobbsstrauss.com or by phone at (503) 242-1745.