



215 SW Washington Street, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97204


T 503.242.1745
F 503.242.1072

HOBBSSTRAUS.COM

MEMORANDUM

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TO: TRIBAL HOUSING CLIENTS

FROM:  Ed Clay Goodman & Cari L. Baermann
HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER, LLP

RE: *Action on Indian Housing Appropriations*

Last week, House and Senate Appropriators voted to advance their respective Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Related Agencies appropriations bills. Both bills contain increases for Indian housing programs, but cameral discord on other provisions in the bills indicate that there is a long road ahead before either becomes law.

On July 18, members of the House Appropriations Committee advanced their bill to the full House on a party-line vote. It provides a total amount of \$90.2 billion, of which \$70.9 billion is for HUD. While there is a topline increase of about \$2 billion from FY 2023, the bill also includes around \$25 billion in recissions, meaning that discretionary funding to these agencies is substantially lower than the previous fiscal year. The bill also includes \$1.3 billion for Indian housing programs.

On July 20, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously voted to advance their bill to the full Senate. It appropriates a total of \$98.5 billion and includes no recissions. This means that the Senate is allocating quite a bit more in total discretionary funding for these agencies than the House is. The bill allocates a total of \$70.1 billion for HUD and \$1.1 billion for Indian housing programs.

In both the House and Senate versions of the bill, Indian housing programs got an increase from FY 2023 enacted levels (\$1 billion). In addition, both chambers appropriated more to these programs than the amount requested in the President's Budget (\$1.05 billion).

As the appropriations process continues, it is apparent that the House and the Senate are on two very different tracks. In general, the Senate is appropriating to the limits set by the Fiscal Responsibility Act (118-5), whereas the House is appropriating to levels far below this. In addition, the House has included a number of highly partisan provisions in their appropriations bills. As such, bipartisan cooperation has rapidly deteriorated in the House, but this is not the case in the Senate.

As a result, the appropriations bills currently being advanced by each chamber are seemingly incompatible, indicating the likelihood of significant compromises. It is therefore important to continue to monitor these bills as they progress, and we will continue to update you on any developments regarding Indian housing appropriations as they occur.

Conclusion

If you have any questions about this memorandum or any of the topics discussed in this memorandum, please contact Ed Clay Goodman (egoodman@hobbsstrauss.com) or Cari Baermann (cbaermann@hobbsstrauss.com). Both may also be reached at 503-242-1745.