



“A Tradition of Native American Housing”

November 6, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

As Chairman, and on behalf of the National American Indian Housing Council (“NAIHC”), I am writing to you on a matter of increasing concern to Indian tribal leaders and Native communities across the country: the increasing momentum of the Congress to enact into law legislation to amend and reauthorize the *Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2009* (“IHCIA”). The IHCIA serves as the foundation for the health care delivery system of American Indians and Alaska Natives and has been waiting for reauthorization for 10 years.

For several years Indian Country has been working hard to enact this legislation and you can be assured that the bill has the strong support of Indian Tribes from across the country. This legislation is also supported by the National Indian Health Board (“NIHB”), which advocates on behalf of all Tribal Governments and American Indians/Alaska Natives in their efforts to provide quality health care. As the national organization that represents the housing interests of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians, the NAIHC knows adequate housing and healthcare are fundamental to healthy tribal communities.

The NAIHC is informed that the House of Representatives is attempting to attach the IHCIA to the “Affordable Health Care for America Act,” (H.R. 3962) the broader health care reform legislation that will be going to a vote on the House floor tomorrow. At this juncture, with less than one month remaining in the 1st session of the 111th Congress, we urge you to support these efforts and approve the IHCIA reauthorization so that it might be sent to the President early next year.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Indian Tribes and concern for the well-being of Indian and Alaska Native people across this great country.

Sincerely,

Marty Shuravloff
Chairman