



“A Tradition of Native American Housing”

June 10, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE

The Honorable Barney Frank
Chairman
Committee on Financial Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Spencer Bachus
Ranking Member
Committee on Financial Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frank and Ranking Member Bachus:

I am writing to you on behalf of the National American Indian Housing Council's (NAIHC) Board of Directors and Members about H.R. 6078—"The Green Resources for Energy Efficient Neighborhoods (GREEN) Act." NAIHC appreciates the opportunity to work with Congressman Ed Perlmutter and supports the Congressman's intent and the general contours of the legislation. NAIHC will continue to work so that Indian country is fully included in the bill's provisions.

H.R. 6078 will encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and the development of renewable energy sources for housing which supports sustainable communities. In particular, H.R. 6078 will create a revolving fund for loans to Indian tribes to carry out renewable energy sources activities. We strongly support the creation of the fund and the eligibility of Indian tribes to participate in the fund. Additionally, Indian tribes will be eligible to participate in a Residential Energy Efficiency Block Grant. The bill also makes available an energy efficiency and conservation demonstration program that would provide additional project rental assistance and additional assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act.

As you know, housing stock in Indian country is insufficient in quantity and often of poor quality. For instance, less than 50% of all reservation homes are connected to a public sewer and approximately 90,000 Indian families are homeless or under-housed. H.R. 6078 will provide additional resources to Indian tribes to meet the acute housing needs of their members, while building sustainable communities. We enthusiastically lend our support to this important legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you. Please call upon us if we can assist you further.

Sincerely,

Marty Shuravloff
Chairman