



**COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES**

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe  
Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe  
Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe  
Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe

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## **Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT)**

### **Resolution: 09-22-2023-Resolution #07 2023 (Washington DC)**

#### **Resolution in Support of the Reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance And Self-Determination Act**

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) was formally established in early April 2011, and is comprised of Tribes with large land base, including the Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Shoshone Bannock Tribes • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe and is Chaired by Councilman Marvin Weatherwax, Blackfeet Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT was organized to provide a unified advocacy base on all issues affecting tribes that govern large trust land bases and that strive to ensure the most beneficial use of those lands for tribes and individual Indian landowners; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT tribes consist of tribes that have a land base of 100,000 acres of land or more, of which, of the 574 Federally recognized Tribes, more than 50 tribes meet this criteria; and these tribes control 95 percent of tribal lands and consist of one half of the Native population; and

**WHEREAS**, COLT member tribes have participated for many years in outreach and advocacy with federal policymakers to address matters of pressing concern to Indian Country, including housing; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act* (NAHASDA) was approved by a Republican Congress and signed into law by President Clinton in 1996 (Pub. L. 104-330). The NAHASDA has been amended and reauthorized several times,<sup>1</sup> but most recently

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<sup>1</sup> Previous reauthorizations occurred in 2002, Pub. L. 107-292; and in 2008, Pub. L. 110-411.

Amended in 1998 by Pub. L. 105-276; in 2000 by Pub. L. 106-568, and Pub. L. 106-569; in 2004 by Pub. L. 108-393; in 2005 by Pub. L. 109-136, and Pub. L.109-58; in 2008 by Pub. L. 110-411; and in 2010 by Pub. L. 111-269.



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authority for the law expired in 2013. The NAHASDA is a block grant program that provides annual, dedicated funding to tribal housing programs, and helps fulfill the United States' trust and treaty obligations to Indian tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, two reauthorization bills were considered. On the House side, H.R.5195 was introduced by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) with no co-sponsors and was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. On the Senate side, S.2264 was introduced by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI), along with 11 bipartisan co-sponsors, and was favorably reported out of the Committee on Indian Affairs. Sen. Schatz's bill passed the Senate as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) but was removed from that bill before final passage; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, Sen. Schatz (D-HI) introduced S. 2285, *A bill to reauthorize the NAHASDA of 1996*, along with Sens. Murkowski (R-AK), Tester (D-MT), and Hoeven (R-ND). On July 19, 2023, the Committee on Indian Affairs held a markup on the bill, which passed, as amended, by voice vote. On June 13, 2023, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs' Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development held an oversight hearing on the State of Native American Housing. Additionally, Senator Schatz offered an amendment (No. 1078) to the NDAA, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 86 to 11. The NDAA passed the Senate. There has been no NAHASDA reauthorization bill introduced in the House; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American communities often face extreme and unique housing and economic challenges and NAHASDA reauthorization will help Indian tribes address these in an efficient manner. In 2019, the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey reported that American Indians and Alaska Natives were almost twice as likely to live in poverty as the rest of the population — 23.0% compared with 12.3%. The median income for American Indian and Alaska Native households is 30% less than the national average (\$45,476 versus \$65,712). In 2017, a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) assessment found that 15.9 % of tribal homes were overcrowded, compared to only 2.2% nationally; and

**WHEREAS**, the reauthorization of NAHASDA would provide program improvements to HUD's Native American programs, including provisions to:



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- assist veterans by providing housing vouchers that are coupled with healthcare services;
- streamline the process for mortgages to receive approval of Federal guarantees under the Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program; and
- consolidate the number of environmental reviews for tribal housing projects.

**WHEREAS**, while Congress has provided funding for NAHASDA since 2013, reauthorization would provide more certainty for future appropriations and better assist Tribal Housing Entities in successfully developing housing options.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, it is the policy of COLT to support the Reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance And Self-Determination Act, and we urge all of our delegations to move to enact it as soon as possible, including as part of the NDAA; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of COLT until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.



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**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was enacted at a duly called meeting of the Coalition of Large Tribes held on ancestral lands of the Anacostans (also documented as Nacotchtank), and the neighboring Piscataway and Pamunkey peoples, Washington, DC on September 22, 2023, at which a quorum was present, with the resolution approved unanimously.

Dated this September 22, 2023

Attest:

Marvin Weatherwax  
COLT Chairman

*Oliver Semans Sr*

OJ Semans  
COLT Executive Director  
(Carrying out duties delegated by Secretary Nathan Small upon his retirement)