

## **NAHASDA MODERNIZATION ACT STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT**

“Senator Murkowski’s bill removes barriers that have slowed housing development for too long and better aligns federal policy with the realities we face in Alaska. If we’re going to meet the housing crisis with the speed and scale the moment calls for, we need to build like the future depends on it. By strengthening NAHASDA’s promise of self-determination and bringing it into the modern era, this legislation helps make that possible,” **said Griffin Forster, Executive Director of the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities.**

“For nearly 30 years, NAHASDA has demonstrated that when Tribes are empowered to lead, communities succeed. The NAHASDA Modernization Act strengthens that foundation in several ways: by codifying the impactful HUD-TIAC, expanding technical assistance flexibility, reducing reporting burdens, and much more—ensuring federal policy continues to be shaped by Tribal voices and grounded in self-determination.” **said Jacqueline Pata, President/CEO Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority; Co-Chair, HUD Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee.**

“In remote Alaska, delay doesn’t just slow a project—it can stop it for an entire year. Senator Murkowski understands that reality. This bill reflects a clear understanding that federal policies need to support housing production and affordability, not complicate it. From streamlining environmental review to advancing logistics partnerships with the military, this legislation helps ensure we get more impact from every dollar—and stay focused on what matters most: building the homes our communities need,” **said Teri Nutter, President/CEO of Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority.**

“We are thankful for Senator Murkowski, whose leadership in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs has been crucial for supporting self-determination through her ongoing championing of Tribal housing. NAHASDA is *the* essential tool for creating housing across Indian Country, but it was last updated in 2008—nearly 20 years ago. This updated legislation allows for modernizing programs and serving our people more efficiently, with a focus on creating more housing, not red tape,” **said Gabe Layman, President/CEO of Cook Inlet Housing Authority.**

“Housing is foundational to healthy communities and strong economies. We welcome all efforts that align federal policy with on-the-ground realities, creating the flexibility needed for effective partnerships between Tribal entities, philanthropy, and other stakeholders working to address Alaska’s housing challenges,” **said Gretchen Guess, President & CEO of the Rasmuson Foundation.**

“The Foraker Group is pleased to support Senator Murkowski’s effort to reauthorize and strengthen NAHASDA. Across Alaska, housing affordability shapes the health and stability of

our communities and is essential to sustaining a strong nonprofit workforce—especially in rural areas where nonprofits make up a significant share of employment. NAHASDA equips Tribal housing providers with the tools and flexibility to meet local needs and deliver housing solutions where few alternatives exist. We appreciate Senator Murkowski’s leadership in advancing this critical investment in Alaska’s communities,” **said Laurie Wolf, President & CEO of The Foraker Group.**

“We appreciate Senator Murkowski’s focus on addressing homelessness in Tribal communities, including support for Native veterans and expanded Continuum of Care access. These provisions will make a meaningful difference,” **said Brian Wilson, Executive Director of the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness.**

“In Alaska, long-term stability and access to financing are critical to sustainable housing development. These provisions expanding lease terms and strengthening loan guarantees create new opportunities for investment, homeownership, and economic growth in Tribal communities,” **said Shauna Hegna, Board Chair, Housing Alaskans: A Public-Private Partnership.**

“Alaska’s cities and boroughs have long recognized that housing challenges require coordinated solutions. This legislation promotes alignment between Tribal, local, and federal partners, and we commend Senator Murkowski’s leadership in bringing it forward,” **said Nils Andreassen, Executive Director of the Alaska Municipal League.**

“Building in Alaska requires solutions that are grounded in the real costs and conditions that Tribes and regional housing authorities encounter every day. We see this important legislation as an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between research and providers closest to the work, ensuring that innovation is responsibly guided by practical experience and leads to more homes that are both buildable and built to last,” **said Brenda Riley, Interim Executive Director of the Cold Climate Housing Research Center.**

“The growth of Native Communities without an increase in housing results in overcrowded conditions, which leads to social ills. Having to painfully wait each year to find out whether Congress will fund NAHASDA is detrimental to Native communities. The re-authorization of NAHASDA gives Tribes the funding stability they require to give the gift of stability to Native families. Providing families with stability through safe and adequate housing changes the mindset. It allows families to think beyond shelter and safety and strive for education and economic development,” **said Francisco Carr, Executive Director of the Pueblo of Acoma Housing Authority.**

“Across the Navajo Nation, and throughout Indian Country, housing shortages are a critical challenge in Tribal communities. Reauthorizing and strengthening NAHASDA will help Tribal

housing authorities streamline housing development, reduce unnecessary delays, and move housing projects forward more quickly to house Native families. We value Senator Ben Ray Luján’s leadership in advancing this important legislation,” **said Levon Henry, Interim CEO, Navajo Housing Authority.**

In commemoration of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole on his 155th birthday, **Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Director Kali Watson said,** “The work Prince Kūhiō advocated for over a 100 years ago to rehabilitate native Hawaiians by returning them to their land continues today through the introduction of legislation to reauthorize Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA). The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands stands in full support of the NAHASDA Modernization Act and extends its deepest appreciation to Senators Brian Schatz (D-Hawai‘i) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Hawai‘i’s Congressional delegation, and our Native American and Alaska Native partners across the United States in coming together to ensure critical housing funding and resources continue to serve the needs of our communities.”