October 1, 2009

Marty Shuravloff
Executive Director
Kodiak Island Housing Authority
3137 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Dear Mr. Shuravloff:

On behalf of the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), I am writing to thank you for your strong support for amendments contained in the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-411), which was signed into law on October 14, 2008. We look forward to working with tribal leaders and housing officials to implement these amendments through the negotiated rulemaking process.

As the new law is implemented, we are especially cognizant of section 105, which requires the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to promulgate regulations to implement these changes not later than two years after enactment. NAIHC recognizes that this deadline will be met only with hard work, dedication, and strict adherence to established guidelines. The NAIHC’s Board of Directors, with assistance from the NAIHC Legislative Committee, has discussed the rigorous statutory timelines of the rulemaking process and offers the attached draft protocols and charter for consideration by the negotiated rulemaking committee.

We present these documents as a time-saving mechanism in order to expedite rulemaking on the underlying amendments. This proposal has also been shared with the leadership of the National Congress of American Indians. NAIHC’s submission of these protocols and charter is meant as a guide and has been offered as a suggestion only. We know there may be other ideas equally or more valid than the ones we offer. We trust, however, that our suggestions will be a helpful point of departure.

Thank you again for your support of the newest NAHASDA amendments and your ongoing support for housing and economic development in Native American communities across the country.
We are hopeful that the rulemaking can be accomplished in a disciplined and timely manner and offer our assistance and cooperation in any way we can. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mellor Willie, Executive Director, at (202) 789-1754.

Sincerely,

Marty Shuravloff
Chairman