

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 26, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Capitol, S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development and Related
Agencies
Dirksen 133
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development and Related
Agencies
Dirksen 128
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chair Cochran, Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Bond:

We write to express appreciation for your continued support for funding of essential construction activities in Native American communities, and request your assistance in maintaining the current funding level for the Indian Housing Block Grant program in the FY11 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act. The President's FY 2011 budget request proposes a \$123.5 million reduction of the block grant program and technical assistance program. We urge you to reject this reduction and maintain level funding for this important program.

Native American communities face an exceptionally challenging housing situation. One in five American Indians lives in an overcrowded home, and according to 2002 statistics, 90,000 Indian families were homeless or under-housed. With Indian lands held in trust or restricted-fee status, financial institutions often refuse to acknowledge Indian land as collateral for individuals to finance new homes. This makes the Indian Housing Block Grant program essential to securing adequate housing in tribal lands.

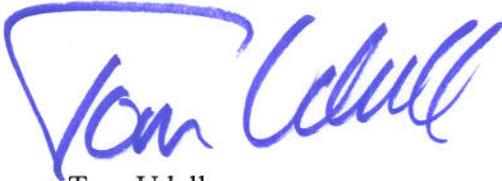
The Indian Housing Block Grant program under Title I of the *Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996* (NAHASDA) provides block grants to Indian tribes or their tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) on a formula basis to help them address housing needs in their communities. While the block grants may be used for the purchase, modernization, or construction of housing units, as well as rental and homeowner assistance, technical assistance and training are also key components to NAHASDA's success.

In FY 2010 the NAHASDA block grant program was funded at \$700 million, and funding for training and technical assistance was \$3.5 million. We urge you to maintain the FY

2010 levels for the NAHASDA Block Grant and Training and Technical Assistance Programs in FY11 Appropriations for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you on this and the many other important issues facing our nation.

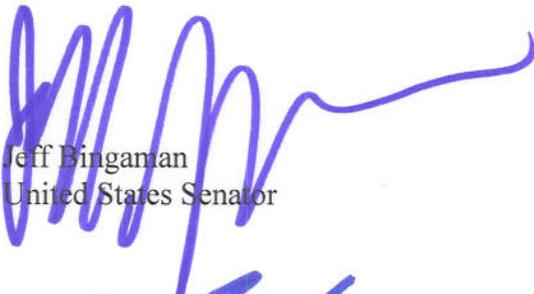
Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senate



Mark Begich
United States Senator



Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Byron Dorgan
United States Senator



Russell Feingold
United States Senator



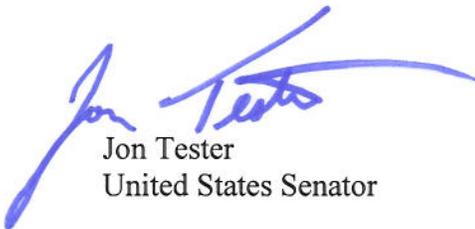
Al Franken
United States Senator



Tim Johnson
United States Senator



Harry Reid
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator