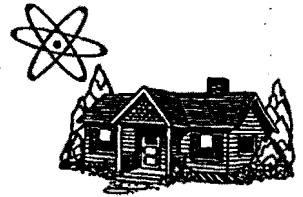


Southern Plains Indian Housing Association

Post Office Box G • Hugo, OK 74743



March 4, 2010

Mr. Wayne Sims, Administrator
Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs
301 N.W. 6th Street Suite 200
Oklahoma City, Ok 73102

Dir Sir,

Re: Resolution 09101901- A Resolution Requesting Indian Preference Requirement in Employment within the Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs.

The Southern Plains Indian Housing Association was created to represent the interest of its members located in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana. Our membership consists of delegates from 47 Indian Tribes, Housing Authorities, and Tribally Designated Housing Entities.

The membership has voted and accepted the above mentioned resolution. The intent of the resolution is a policy which provides for Indian preference equal to the veterans preference, in employment, vacancies and promotions within the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs be mandated through executive order or law.

I want to express our appreciation for your support and efforts in regards to Indian Housing. I am enclosing a copy of the Resolution 09101901 for your review and if any further assistance is needed please contact me at (580) 326-7521 ext. 238 or email rsossamon@choctawhousing.com.

Respectfully yours,

Russell Sossamon, Chairman
Southern Plains Indian Housing Association

RDS:ss
Enclosure

Southern Plains Indian Housing Association
P. O Box 788
Ada, OK 74821-0788
Russell Sossamon, President Jodie Humphers, Secretary/Treasurer

RESOLUTION 09101901

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING INDIAN PREFERENCE REQUIREMENT IN EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'S OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Southern Plains Indian Housing Association was created to serve the needs of its members located in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Plains Indian Housing Association represents 47 Indian Housing Authorities or Tribally Designated housing Entities, and

WHEREAS, one of the main goals of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) was to "recognize the right of Indian self determination and tribal self-governance" in the provision of housing services to Indian people (NAHASDA, Section 2(7)); and

WHEREAS, Indian preference in employment with the Department of Interior, is mandated in the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (Wheeler-Howard Act) in an effort to support Indian participation in self-government, to further the Government's trust obligations to tribes and to have Indians administer programs that primarily serve Indians; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service have implemented Indian Preference to qualified Indians in all positions has proven to be successful; and


WHEREAS, HUD's Office of Native American Programs, whose primary purpose is to provide housing services to American Indians and Alaska Natives has a veteran's preference for employment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southern Plains Indian Housing Association (SPIHA) requests that a policy which provides for Indian preference equal to the veterans preference, in employment, vacancies and promotions within the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs be mandated through executive order or law.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern Plains Indian Housing Association authorizes the executive committee and/or their designees to contact congressional representatives in their districts to pursue the initiation of such legislation.

CERTIFICATION

Resolution 09101901 was duly adopted by the membership of the Association on the 19th day of October, 2009, at the regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting.



Russell Sossamon, President



Jodie Humphers, Secretary