



INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL of ARIZONA

September 20, 2011

MEMBER TRIBES

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
COCOPAH TRIBE
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
FORT McDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION
FORT MOJAVE TRIBE
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
HAVASUPAI TRIBE
HOPI TRIBE
HUALAPAI TRIBE
KAIBAB-PAIUTE TRIBE
PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE
PUEBLO OF ZUNI
QUECHAN TRIBE
SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA
INDIAN COMMUNITY
SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE
TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
TONTON APACHE TRIBE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
YAVAPAI APACHE NATION
YAVAPAI PRESCOTT INDIAN TRIBE

Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable John Olver
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: FY2012 THUD Appropriations

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Olver:

On behalf of the 20 member tribes of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), I am writing regarding the FY2012 THUD Appropriations bill and, more particularly, provisions related to Indian housing and community development. First, thank you for the funding level for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) at \$648.7 million. While less than the FY2011 appropriated level, we understand the difficult choices the Subcommittee must make in this and future fiscal years.

We strongly object to bill language requiring FY2012 IHBG funds to be expended in 3 years, and the threshold for unexpended balances in general. These two provisions alone would cause the most severe impacts on Indian tribes in Arizona. We do support the idea of a clinical review by the Government Accountability Office of the many reasons for delays in IHBG disbursements by HUD to the tribes and additional delays in the ultimate expenditure of the funds by tribes.

We also support continued funding for training and technical assistance for the National American Indian Housing Council, the recognized expert in assisting tribes with important services that no other entity, including HUD, can provide.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and your continued support for tribal communities in Arizona and across the country.

Sincerely,

Shan Lewis,
Vice-Chairman, Fort Mojave Tribe
President, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona