**SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRESS**

**(YOUR LETTERHEAD)**

Date

The Honorable (Full Name)

(Room #) (Name) House Office Building

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

***Re: House Consideration of Native American Housing Legislation***Dear (Congressman/woman):

I am writing on behalf of [Name of Indian Housing Entity of Tribe] to convey our strong support for the reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) and to urge you to advocate for the immediate passage of H.R.4329, a bill introduced by Representative Steve Pearce. Please make NAHASDA reauthorization a high priority during the next few weeks by urging Majority Leader McCarthy to ensure the bill is considered by the House of Representatives.

H.R.4329 was introduced by Rep. Pearce in March 2014, and would provide meaningful and necessary reforms to NAHASDA, the main authority for the construction and management of housing for low-income Indian families. On July 30, 2014, the House Financial Services Committee favorable reported the bill on a bi-partisan basis and a vote tally of 47 to 11.

Enacted in the mid-1990s, when Congress saw fit to block grant major federal programs to states and localities, NAHASDA revolutionized federal housing assistance by consolidating many disparate programs into the Indian Housing Block Grant program to be managed by the tribes themselves. Since then, NAHASDA has resulted in many more housing units being developed compared to funding provided pursuant to previous housing statutes. While modest compared to other federal housing programs, the $650 million in annual NAHASDA appropriations is the single largest source of federal housing assistance to tribal communities.

Since 2012, Indian tribes have worked with Mr. Pearce to develop legislation to make the most of scarce housing dollars, expedite approvals by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and streamline environmental requirements. The [Name of Indian Housing Entity of Tribe] is committed to working with Congress to ensure this important legislation is enacted before the 113th Congress comes to a close.

Cordially,

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[Name of your Indian Housing or Tribe, your title]