

**UNITED NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION #2018-003**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DISASTER RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE FOR TRIBES
IN THE DAKOTAS**

WHEREAS, the United Native Housing Association (UNAHA) is comprised of individual member Indian Housing Authorities, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and Tribes from the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana and Utah, and

WHEREAS, there are Indian tribes and Indian housing programs located in the Dakotas, including the Oglala Sioux Tribe, who have suffered the loss and severe damage to hundreds of homes, including FEMA temporary homes, from repeated and sustained severe storms including hail, tornadoes, and high winds; and,

WHEREAS, some Tribes have issued disaster declarations, including the Oglala Sioux Tribe, but resources to address the immediate needs have been delayed by FEMA's requirement that there be \$1 million or more dollars in claims prior to the dispatch of FEMA personnel to the area, and the coordination of FEMA Assessment Teams through states; and

WHEREAS, many of the affected communities are in remote, rural areas without access to adequate communications equipment, lacking access to business, transportation, and infrastructure necessary to properly assess the damages that have occurred; and

WHEREAS, many of the affected families either lacked means of transportation prior to the disasters, or lost their vehicles in the disasters, making access to assistance and resources necessary to repair housing damaged by the storms to preserve such housing from deterioration; and

WHEREAS, the repeated and sustained storms in the Dakotas have also resulted in limited availability or access to assessors in the private market able to assist with the assessment of damage, and meeting the FEMA requirements; and

WHEREAS, this crisis will deepen as winter weather occurs often in October of each year, unless FEMA and other federal agencies act quickly to bring the necessary technical assistance, and financial and administrative support for tribal communities facing these disasters;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Native American Housing Association supports the deployment of personnel and resources by each and every federal agency with authorities to provide relief to all tribal nations in North and South Dakota that have declared a state of emergency, including but not limited to the Oglala Sioux Tribe,


regardless of any action taken by the States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that UNAHA calls upon State governments and federal agencies to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to provide for the following needs:

1. Efficient and timely assessment of damages and estimates of costs of repair and replacement;
2. Temporary and permanent housing replacement and repair funds to ensure availability of housing prior to the onset of winter; and
3. Disaster relief resources for families who have become homeless, or are at imminent risk of homelessness as a result of the natural disasters.
4. Deployment of FEMA personnel, HUD personnel, and any other agency personnel at the state and national level as requested by Tribal nations to assist in assessment and coordination of disaster relief.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the UNAHA Membership at a duly noticed and called annual meeting assembled for business on South Sioux City, NE on August 20, 2018, at which a quorum was present, with a vote of 81 -for, 0 - opposed, and 0 not voting.


Jason Adams, President

ATTEST:


Iva Grainger
UNAHA Secretary