



NCN CEO Office
Native CDFI Network
2550 N. Diers Ave, Suite K
Grand Island, NE 68803

November 10, 2025

Representative French Hill
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Financial Services
1533 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Maxine Waters
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Financial Services
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Inclusion of Amendment #3732 in Final FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Legislation

Dear Chairman Hill, Ranking Member Waters, and members of the House Committee on Financial Services:

On behalf of the nearly 100 Treasury-certified and emerging Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs) served by the Native CDFI Network (NCN), I write to express **our unified support for [Senate NDAA Amendment #3732](#) and request that this amendment be included in the final FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) legislation** that will soon be passed by Congress.

A bipartisan, budget-neutral legislative package, NDAA Amendment #3732 brings together several much-needed provisions designed to enhance the ability of Native CDFIs to foster transformative community and economic development opportunities and growth in distressed, predominantly rural communities across this country. NCN, Native CDFIs, and key Indian Country partners have previously expressed our formal support for Amendment #3732's key provisions, notably the [Scaling Community Lenders Act](#) and [Section 301 of the Rural Housing Service Reform Act of 2025](#).

The provision codifying Section 301 of the Rural Housing Service Reform Act of 2025 will be a game-changer for Native CDFIs providing home loans to Native communities, as it seeks to make the highly successful demonstration project for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Section 502 Direct Home Loan Program permanent and use \$50 million of the existing annual 502 Direct Loan appropriations for a national relending program specifically for Native communities. The demonstration project – implemented in 2018 – made two Native CDFIs eligible borrowers under the 502 Program and enabled them to relend to qualified families for the construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of affordable housing on tribal trust land, and resulted in those CDFIs doubling *in one year* the number of home loans that USDA had provided on two Indian reservations in South Dakota *during the previous decade*. The project demonstrated that Native CDFIs are uniquely equipped to deploy mortgage capital efficiently and effectively in tribal communities, in part because of the supportive services they provide their clients, including homebuyer education, post-purchase and foreclosure prevention counseling, and other technical assistance.

Meanwhile, the Scaling Community Lenders Act will enable the CDFI Fund to create pilot projects within the industry through a competitive application process designed to attract new capital to the industry and increase the velocity of CDFI lending nationwide. It will dramatically boost investment in Native CDFIs, who contend with considerable unmet capital needs and longstanding challenges in attracting long-term, patient capital as they work to address the financing needs of Native nations, communities, businesses, homeowners, and consumers.

The critically needed provisions contained in NDAA Amendment #3732 will catalyze much-needed community development projects and Native housing and homeownership across Indian Country, which will in turn foster family

stability and self-sufficiency, strengthen tribal self-determination, and stimulate tribal economies. With 65 certified Native CDFIs and more than 30 emerging Native CDFIs across the nation, NDAA Amendment #3732 will enhance the ability of the expanding Native CDFI industry to secure additional affordable capital to meet the growing needs of Indian Country. It should be included in the final NDAA legislation.

In closing, the CDFI industry has long enjoyed broad bipartisan support in Congress, as has Treasury's CDFI Fund, which administers federal support of this industry (most recently expressed in a [letter](#) from 105 GOP members of Congress dated October 23, 2025). We appreciate your consideration of this request to once again affirm Congress's support of this industry, the CDFI Fund, and specifically [Native CDFIs](#) by expanding their access to capital in service to Native communities.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Upton", written in a cursive style.

Pete Upton

CEO

Native CDFI Network