



His Excellency Prime Minister Tayyip Erdoğan  
of the Republic of Turkey  
c/o Ambassador Namık Tan  
Washington, DC 20008

September 25, 2013

Dear Mr. Prime Minister Erdoğan,

On behalf of the board of directors of the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), I want to convey our congratulations and best wishes to you and the Turkish people on the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic. In the past few years, Turkey and Turkish Americans have made an extraordinary effort in reaching out to Native Americans. This outreach has positively influenced our communities and helped us broaden our horizons to a global scale.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight Turkish contributions made in recent years that were spearheaded by the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), and express our sincere appreciation for these endeavors. NAIHC is particularly grateful for the grant received this year from the Turkish American Business Association (TABA). This supported our Leadership Institute, a national training program for housing professionals. Following are examples of projects that have been undertaken.

#### Grants & Scholarships

- A grant from the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) to address world poverty in Central and South America, mainly poor Indian farmers.
- A proposed grant from TIKA, currently under consideration, for an infrastructure project on an Indian reservation in the United States.
- A grant from TABA for NAIHC's national housing leadership training program.
- Study Abroad in Turkey Scholarships for Native American students sponsored by TCA.
- Scholarships for Native American students from Istanbul Technical University (ITU) and Bahçeşehir University to study at these institutions.

#### Trips

- TCA sponsored Native American educators on two separate trips to Turkey to enhance educational exchanges.
- TCA sponsored a Turkish faculty trip to tribal colleges in the United States to facilitate dialogue and collaboration.
- TCA and ITU co-sponsored an 'Infrastructure Development Cooperation Workshop' to enable tribal representatives to meet with distinguished development scholars.

- TCA sponsored a Business Cooperation Trip to Turkey for 20 tribal leaders who met with Ministers Ahmet Davutoğlu and Zafer Çağlayan, as well as with representatives from business organizations.
- TCA facilitated a business matchmaking trip to Turkey for tribal attorneys.

### Culture

- Hacettepe University in Ankara hosted two consecutive Native American Heritage Conferences, sponsored by TCA.
- Ambassador Namık Tan hosted two consecutive receptions at his residence celebrating Native American Heritage Month with the support from TCA, DC-based tribal organizations, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and the Turkish American Association of Washington, DC.

### Business Development

- Participation by the Turkish Ministry of Economy, the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TACCI) and TCA in the Annual National Reservation Economic Summit (RES), the premier Native American economic forum. The Turkish government was the first foreign government to participate in this summit.
- Business development meetings held by Minister Zafer Çağlayan with tribal leaders in Washington, Los Angeles and Seattle.
- A meeting to discuss business opportunities with tribal leaders hosted by Ambassador Namık Tan in Washington, DC.

### Legislation

- TCA's initiative in promoting legislation in Congress, HR 2362, a bill to facilitate investment from Turkey and other WTO countries in Indian Country. The bill received a simple majority of votes, but was short of the necessary 2/3 majority for passage. Because of the Turkish American initiative, this was the first time in history that the US Congress had encouraged Native American tribes to consider international business opportunities. Raising awareness for the bill also increased the awareness of the economic difficulties faced by Native Americans.

As sovereign nations, a tribe's right to identify, nurture and maintain economic and community development is vital to its growth and success. Turkey's initiative in encouraging partnerships with Tribal Nations recognizes and supports this unique government-to-government relationship. On behalf of housing in Indian Country and the 466 tribes that we represent, NAIHC thanks the Turkish people, Turkish Americans and the Turkish government for undertaking these endeavors.

Our congratulations on the 90th anniversary of the Turkish Republic.

Respectfully,



Chairperson



Executive Director