

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Melanie Benjamin Re-Appointed to Affordable Housing Advisory Council

(Des Moines, Iowa) – Melanie Benjamin was recently re-appointed to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Affordable Housing Advisory Council (AHAC). Her three-year term will begin on January 1, 2009.

In June 2008, Benjamin was re-elected to her third term as chief executive, of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, a sovereign nation in rural East Central Minnesota. Benjamin has demonstrated her commitment to creating and preserving affordable housing through developing new housing for band members by providing home renovation assistance, home maintenance services and home loan programs to band members. As founder of the East Central Minnesota Business Development Summit, she created a network for government agencies, businesses and non-profits to discuss economic partnerships, job creation and community development. In 2003, Benjamin received the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce “Band its Bear” award for her dedication to American Indian Business.

Benjamin serves as treasurer for Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations which give women the tools and resources to be good citizens of their community. She is also a board member of the Indian Law Resource Center and served as chair of the Housing and Economic Development Subcommittee for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

FHLB Des Moines Affordable Housing Advisory Council is a 15-member group that advises the Bank on housing and economic development programs and needs. AHAC members are a diverse group of people from across the Bank’s five-state district of Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota. Council representatives typically have an extensive housing and economic development background.

Warren Hanson, president and CEO, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund in St. Paul, Minnesota; Lynn Fundingsland, executive director, Fargo Housing and Redevelopment in Fargo, North Dakota; Linda S. Morgan, director, Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity in Waterloo, Iowa and Shawn Pritchett, executive director, South Eastern Council of Government in Sioux Falls, South Dakota were all re-appointed to another three-year term on the Bank’s advisory council.

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The Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines is a wholesale cooperative bank that provides low-cost short and long-term funding and community lending to more than 1,200 members, including commercial banks, saving institutions, credit unions and insurance companies. The Bank is wholly owned by its members and receives no taxpayer funding. The Des Moines Bank serves Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota and is one of twelve regional Banks that make up the Federal Home Loan Bank System.