



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### USET Resolution No. 2013:023

#### SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

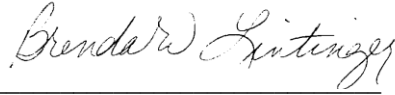
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program (HIP) is an important program that addresses the unmet need of providing funding for renovation or replacement of substandard and unsafe housing currently owned or occupied by low-income American Indians; and
- WHEREAS,** HIP is not a duplication of funds with the housing programs funded by appropriations under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA); and
- WHEREAS,** HIP faces a substantial reduction in funding and its current purchasing power has been steadily decreasing; and
- WHEREAS,** the current funding formula and income requirements for HIP have resulted in reduced numbers of applicants and consequently, an inadequate allocation of funds to the Tribes in the Eastern Region; and
- WHEREAS,** HIP applicants are subjected to a lengthy approval process for funding, which impedes the planning process and creates uncertainty for individuals; and
- WHEREAS,** the maximum funding amounts established several years ago have not kept up with inflation and do not reflect current construction costs; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that the Bureau of Indian Affairs support increased funding, as well as redirect unused funds from other programs that support Indian housing to HIP; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors encourages the Bureau of Indian Affairs to make changes to the funding matrix that would allow for the Eastern Region Tribes to receive more funds, as well as an adjustment of the formula so that low-income Tribal members in areas with higher incomes would be eligible for Housing Improvement Program funding; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recommends that the Bureau of Indian Affairs expedite decisions regarding Housing Improvement Program funding awards; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the Bureau of Indian Affairs to update the maximum amounts provided for Category A and Category B work to levels that reflect today's costs.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 7, 2013.



Brian Patterson, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*