



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

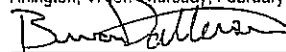
USET Resolution No. 2007:023

SUPPORT FOR UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INCORPORATED  
BUREAU INFORMATION OFFICE

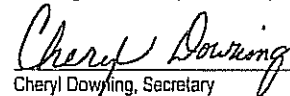
- WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has supported through resolution the formation of a USET Bureau Information Office (BIO) to offer valuable technical assistance to member Tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the USET BIO has successfully kept the Tribes apprised of ongoing Bureau of Indian Affairs and Department of the Interior issues, has successfully represented USET Tribal issues at the national level and has created strong working relationships with the Tribes, other Tribal organizations and Federal officials at all levels of government in order to further the position of USET Tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the USET Tribal Administration, USET Social Services, and USET Natural Resources Committees are in agreement that the USET BIO plays an essential role in assisting with their work as a committee and as Tribal personnel; and
- WHEREAS, the USET BIO programs overlap and impact many additional USET committees including Tribal Justice, Tribal Emergency Services, Housing, Education, Cultural and Heritage, and Commercial Law and Legislation; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribes will stand to lose the ground that has been gained through the efforts of the USET BIO if current BIO functions are transferred back to the BIA Eastern Regional Office (ERO) because the BIA ERO does not have the staffing in place to support all of the functions performed through the USET BIO; and
- WHEREAS, the USET BIO has been funded in recent years (\$235,000 annually) through Tribal funds that have been returned to the ERO with the intent to use those funds to benefit all of the Tribes in the USET region; and
- WHEREAS, those returned Tribal funds were used at the discretion of the BIA ERO Director; and
- WHEREAS, USET has been told that some of those funds remain at the BIA ERO and will be distributed at the discretion of the BIA ERO, but not to expect USET to receive any of those funds; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recognizes the importance of the USET Bureau Information Office and the need for this position to continue assisting Tribes; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests funding in the amount of \$235,000 annually from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Regional Office discretionary funding or other available funding to maintain the current level of service to the Tribes.

CERTIFICATION

The resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA on Thursday, February 15, 2007.



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



Cheryl Dowling, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

February 15, 2007

Mr. Franklin Keel  
Regional Director  
BIA Eastern Regional Office  
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700  
Nashville, TN 37204

Dear Mr. Keel:

At the recent USET Impact Week Meeting the Social Services Committee and the Natural Resources Committee were informed that the position of USET Bureau Information Officer would no longer be funded by the BIA. This disturbs the Committees in that the BIO position has provided valuable technical assistance to the USET Standing Committees in the past and it was the hope of many Committees to utilize these services more in the future.

It is the understanding of the Committees that past funding came from Tribal funds that were returned to the BIA ERO and were distributed at the discretion of the Regional Director. USET has been told that there are some of those funds remaining, but that once again it is at the discretion of the Regional Director how those funds are allocated.

The USET Social Services Committee and the Natural Resources Committee is in support of the resolution put forth by the USET Tribal Administration Committee supporting the need for a USET Bureau Information Office. Additionally, we would also like to request that any discretionary funds remaining at the Eastern Regional Office be used to continue funding the USET Bureau Information Office. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
USET Social Services Committee  
USET Natural Resources Committee