



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2008:026

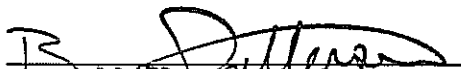
SUPPORT FOR FUNDING NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING PROGRAMS

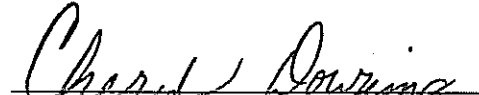
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States (U.S.) Congress recognized the need for housing assistance and economic development in Indian Country when they passed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) as amended;
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$750 million just to keep pace with inflation since the program was funded at \$650 million in FY 2002, yet all indications are that at least \$1 billion is needed to meet tribal housing needs nationally; and
- WHEREAS,** the FY 2009 President's budget request proposed a reduction of the Indian Housing Block Grant from \$630 million as enacted in FY 2008 to \$627 million in FY 2009; and
- WHEREAS,** the FY 2009 President's budget request proposed for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development a budget that includes a significant reduction for the Indian Community Development Block Grant and elimination of funding for Rural Housing and Economic Development, programs that are vitally important to tribal housing programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the FY 2009 President's budget request proposed a reduction in funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service Sanitations Facilities Construction Program, an infrastructure program vital to health and well-being of our people; and
- WHEREAS,** the FY 2009 President's budget request proposed complete elimination of funding for programs vital to tribal housing programs, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program and U.S. Department of Agriculture direct loan programs for single and multi-families; and
- WHEREAS,** Indian Country sorely needs these programs fully funded to support the development of affordable housing for American Indians and Alaska Natives who face some of the most deplorable housing and living conditions in the U.S.; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** The USET Board of Directors and Tribally Designated Housing Entities requests an increase of funding from Congress to at least keep pace with inflation from FY 2002 funding levels and also increased levels of funding for Tribal housing programs to a level commensurate with the \$1 Billion need; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors urges Congress to reverse cuts and elimination of funding for tribal housing programs that are so vital to Indian Country, within
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
 - U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture,
 - U.S. Department Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service.

"Because there is strength in Unity"

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, Thursday, February 14, 2008.


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


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