



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES

RESOLUTION No. 11/94-10EL

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS REORGANIZATION

- WHEREAS,** The United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-one (21) 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 is comprised of tribal delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Interior over the last two years have failed to carry out, outside of education and in connection with the dissolution of the Joint Tribal/BIA/DOI Task Force on BIA Reorganization, a systemic and detailed consultation with the sovereign tribal governments as required by the Indian reorganization Act of 1934; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Administration has begun to implement changes in federal government organization, including a large percentage reduction in the number of federal employees, without the Department of Interior's articulating how proposed changes might affect federal services provided to Indian people; and,
- WHEREAS,** although USET enthusiastically supports the idea of reorganizing the federal government with an eye to increase efficiency, the policy of the government-to-government relationship and the consultation requirement together mandate the involvement of each tribal government in making these plans, especially insofar as they relate to the delivery of federal services to Indian people on and near the reservation; and,
- WHEREAS,** the member tribes of USET and Indian tribal governments across the country have been asking for change in the Indian bureaucracies for many, many years; and,
- WHEREAS,** many federal resources are indeed being wasted through overstaffing, while at the same time many talented federal employees in the Indian service with considerable expertise have been shuffled to the back rooms without authority or responsibility, where they await retirement, or transfer to other agencies; and,

“Because there is strength in Unity”

WHEREAS, the United States Congress directed the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to consult with Indian tribes prior to implementing any reorganization; and,

WHEREAS, USET tribes agreed to a new organizational structure which was presented to the Reorganization Task Force in October, 1991 and unanimously accepted ; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs failed in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 to implement the Eastern Area Organizational Plan and structure; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs now, in November, 1994, has begun the implementation of a major reorganization, without consulting with tribes, which eliminates the Eastern Area Office; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is going against previously agreed recommendations of the BIA-Tribal Reorganization Task Force by arbitrarily changing the structure of the Eastern area and other targeted areas; and,

WHEREAS, any move by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to dissolve the Eastern Area Office under the guise of decentralization will be viewed as an attempt to destroy the unity of the Eastern Area Tribes and to undermine Tribal sovereignty and autonomy; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration and the Congress have affirmed repeatedly that the tribes and the United States have a special government to government relationship.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Board of Directors, a Council of Governments, is opposed to any attempt to decentralize or change the current structure of the Eastern Area Office ; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USET Board of Directors does hereby call upon the Secretary of the Interior and the Congress to intervene responsibly and according to executive policy, as stated by President Clinton on April 29, 1994, on behalf of the tribes by directing the Bureau of Indian Affairs to cease the current down-sizing of the Bureau from twelve area offices to seven area offices; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USET Board of Directors does hereby call upon the Secretary of the Interior to direct the Bureau of Indian Affairs to consult with tribes and implement the Eastern Area Organization Plan as submitted in October 1991, with the necessary financial increases, for new Tribes, functions and responsibilities from 1991 to date; and,

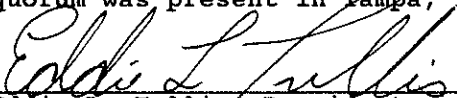
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the United South and Eastern Tribes does hereby call upon the Secretary Of Interior Bruce Babbitt to clarify current Departmental Indian Policy through direct contract with the chief elected official of each tribal

government, and to begin purposeful and explicit consultation with tribal governments through involvement in plans for Reinventing Government, reducing the numbers of federal employees, and consolidating and abolishing federal offices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if there is any shifting or consolidation of offices serving tribal governments being contemplated, the affected tribal governments need to be consulted and to have meaningful input into the redesigning of the office structures.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Board of Directors Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Tampa, FL on the 10th day of November, 1994.



Eddie L. Tullis, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Keller George, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.