



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

Resolution No. USET 96:16

**A RESOLUTION FOR PRESERVATION OF TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) 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 delegates from the member tribes leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** the health, safety, welfare, education, economic, and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of USET; and

**WHEREAS,** the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA") has a definite fiduciary, statutory, and trust responsibility to Indian Tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** Indian Country has been under funded and environmentally under protected by USEPA and USEPA has a history of not including Indian Tribes in the fullest allocation of program funds to entitled Tribal Governments; and

**WHEREAS,** USEPA over the last year has made an honest effort to support Tribal Governments through the National Tribal Operations Committee, Regional Indian Coordinators, and the American Indian Environmental Office

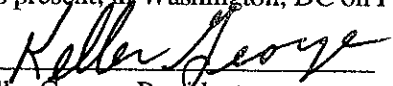
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors does hereby urge Congress and the Administration to provide adequate funding to USEPA and the regulatory areas of EPA; and

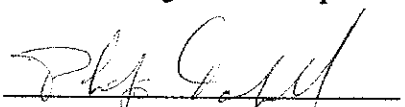
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors joins the National Congress of American Indians by requesting a minimum 100 million dollar fund be established for Tribal Environmental Agreements (TEA's) and that the General Assistance Program in USEPA be increased to 28 million dollars for Indian Tribe's environmental protection capacity building in order to offset the fears of Tribes in leaving a legacy of contaminated toxic land and waters to our children; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Indian Tribes be assured of being fully involved in the implementation and development of all Environmental Programs and Regulations.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the Washington Impact Week Board of Directors meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, DC on February 8, 1996.

  
Keller George, President  
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

  
Philip Tarbell, Secretary  
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*