



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 2002: 029

EPA & OMB-Tribal Core Water Quality Standards

- 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 is comprised of delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for environment, health, and safety of all people within the external boundaries of the United States; and
- WHEREAS, the United States have received this protection since the early 1970's and have progressed in developing the environmental infrastructure and programs within their states having received support from EPA; and
- WHEREAS, EPA has only in the last few years commenced to include American Indian tribes, their reservations, and lands held in trust; and
- WHEREAS, tribes have been subjected to the most serious environmental conditions over these years while the tribes continue to linger far behind states in environmental infrastructure and program support; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribal Core Water Quality Standards (CWQS) were developed over the last four years, signed by the EPA Administrator in January 2001, submitted to Office of Management and Budget (OMB), who returned them to the EPA; and
- WHEREAS, the current Administrator of EPA, Christine Todd Whitman, signed the CWQS and again re-submitted CWQS to OMB, who returned them with a letter calling for more consultation and cost benefit analysis; and
- WHEREAS, OMB has not taken into consideration the treaties, statutes, and policies that govern relations between the federal government and federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, EPA, by Congressional action, has the legal responsibility for providing environmental protection throughout the United States and Indian country; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED* that the USET Board of Directors requests President Bush and EPA Administrator Whitman to expedite the publishing of the Tribal Core Water Quality Standards in order to protect tribal members and their families; and, be it further
- RESOLVED* that President Bush and EPA Administrator Whitman continue the support of Tribal environmental programs and the progress which actually began with former President George Bush over the years.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Miami, FL on Thursday, October 25, 2001

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

Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”