



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.


USET Resolution No. USET 2002:038

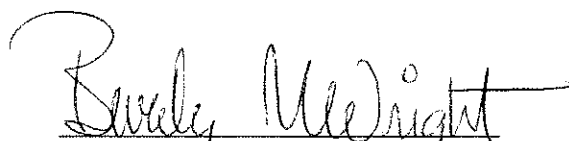
SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION ALLOWING TRIBAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAMS

- 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,** Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients must go to two different offices to apply and receive cash assistance (tribal) and food stamps (County welfare offices); and
- WHEREAS,** the addition of tribal language to welfare reform legislation will allow tribes to provide welfare-related services at one location; and
- WHEREAS,** the Social Services Committee has reviewed Resolution #SPO-01-074 of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) adopted by its General Assembly during the 58th Annual Session on November 25-30, 2001 (copy attached); and
- WHEREAS,** said resolution supports congressional legislation to allow tribes to receive direct funding for the administration of a Tribal Food Stamp Program or the option to determine eligibility for State Food Stamps Programs and waive administrative matching funds requirements for Indian Tribal grantees; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports Resolution # SPO-01-074 ("Support for Legislation Allowing Tribal Food Stamp Programs") of the National Congress of American Indians.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, D.C., Thursday, January 31, 2002.


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


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

**THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICAN INDIANS**

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-074

Title: Support For Legislation Language Allowing Tribal Food Stamp Program

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, as part of welfare reform legislation included language for tribal administration of cash assistance services previously provided by counties; and

although Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs (TANF) are similar to traditional welfare programs, provisions in the law provided tribal programs the flexibility to meet the specific needs of American Indian clientele; and

215 tribes already participate in the United States Department Agriculture Food Distribution Program (a component of the Food Stamp Program) on Indian Reservation; and

Indian tribes have demonstrated their ability to provide welfare cash assistance programs to their people with great success; and

Tribal TANF recipients must go to two different offices to apply and receive cash assistance (tribal) and food stamps (county welfare offices), passage of tribal language will allow tribes to provide welfare related services within the "one stop shop" concept.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.

Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:

Colleen Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports "work stops the clock" provisions allowing tribes and states to continue providing cash assistance to welfare recipients transitioning to work without counting the receipt of such benefits toward the TANF lifetime limit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports amending the disregard of months of assistance for adults living on Indian reservations or Alaska Native villages with 50 percent joblessness or greater by deleting the requirements of 50% joblessness and "stopping the clock" for months of assistance where TANF recipients cannot meet work requirements because of the lack of employment in tribal communities or the lack of jobs for which the recipient is qualified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI opposes TANF provisions that single out Alaska tribes, treating them differently than tribes in other states, by limiting the administration of Tribal TANF to the 12 regional non-profit corporations and by requiring Alaska Tribal TANF programs to be comparable to the state of Alaska's TANF program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports retaining the TANF block grant structure, including the continued ability of tribes to determine their TANF service area and service population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this 2001 Convention of NCAI in Spokane, Washington instructs the NCAI Welfare Reform Task Force and the NCAI staff to continue to work with the tribes, inter-tribal organizations and Indian advocacy groups and inter-state groups to develop specific legislative recommendations for the reauthorization of the welfare reform law; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.