



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2002:040

SBA ECONOMIC/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR TRIBAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTERS

- 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,** historically, the great potential of Indian reservations for economic development has not been fully recognized; and
- WHEREAS,** the lack of economic development has led to consistently high rates of unemployment and great hardship for Indian people on many reservations, with unemployment rates regularly exceeding 35% of all employable adults, far surpassing the national average; and
- WHEREAS,** various programs have been enacted, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) economic development office, which allows businesses owned by Indian tribes and Indian individuals to take advantage of opportunities for business development; and
- WHEREAS,** the Small Business Administration (SBA) has created Tribal Business Information Centers (TBIC) on Indian reservations in Montana, Washington, South Dakota and North Dakota providing incentives for business on reservations and providing business opportunities for Indian and Tribal owned businesses; and
- WHEREAS,** the SBA needs to fund TBIC on Indian reservations in Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oklahoma, Navajo Nation and the USET area; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges the SBA, the U.S. Congress, and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, to appropriate \$25 million for funding the SBA Office of Native American Affairs for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance, and for the development and expansion of TBIC's in New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oklahoma, Navajo Nation and USET area businesses.

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.