



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

---

---

### USET Resolution No. 2002: 064

#### TRIBAL CONSULTATION REGARDING THE SELECTION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE DIRECTOR

- 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,** the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) holds the highest direct federal responsibility for the health status of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people; and
- WHEREAS,** the IHS is one of two major agencies within the United States government, whose sole focus is to serve federally-recognized AI/AN tribal governments, the other being the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); and
- WHEREAS,** the Director of the IHS is the lead advocate for AI/AN people regarding appropriations and provision of services to fulfill the mission of the IHS and the person in this position is key to the success of individual tribal health care delivery systems; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors is keenly aware that the Senate confirmed term of the current IHS Director is scheduled to expire soon; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors respects the right of the Bush/Cheney Administration and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary, Tommy Thompson to review all qualified applicants, including the current IHS Director and make a selection for the Director of the Indian Health Service upon term expiration; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors would like to see the appointment of an individual that embodies qualities to which tribes have been accustomed to, including, adherence to a solid tribal consultation and participation policy, staunch advocacy for tribal governments in the areas of appropriation and Indian health legislation, strong belief and support of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), and most importantly a firm commitment to the Federal Trust Responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** the DHHS has a Tribal Consultation and Participation policy in place to allow for meaningful tribal input regarding decisions that will directly affect tribal governments and the selection of an IHS Director will directly affect tribal governments across the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors would like the opportunity to appoint a tribal leader to sit on the Bush/Cheney Administration selection committee and assist in making the selection of the candidate most qualified to fulfill the federal government's trust responsibility to provide health care services to AI/AN tribal governments and elevate the health status of AI/AN people, to its highest possible level; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests that the Bush/Cheney Administration allow for meaningful tribal consultation and participation in the selection process for the next IHS Director; and, be it further

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

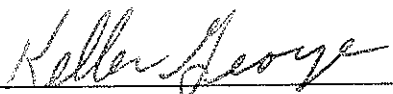
USET Resolution No. 2002:064

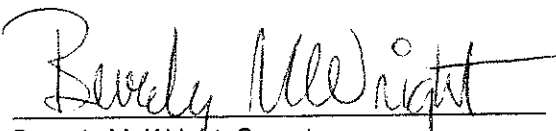
Page 2

**RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors recommends the Bush/Cheney Administration involve tribal governments in the appointment of the next IHS Director by allowing the USET member tribes to appoint a tribal leader to serve on the selection committee along with federal personnel and other tribal representatives.

**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.