



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:100

### REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)

- 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 "Workforce Investment Act" (WIA) is the primary source of support for the employment and job training programs of Indian tribal governments and off-reservation Indian organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** WIA is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2003 and its reauthorization is now pending in the Congress; and
- WHEREAS,** the WIA reauthorization bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, HR 1261, represents a direct attack on tribal sovereignty by authorizing state governments to require that tribes and other Indian Section 166 WIA American Indian grantees turn over a portion of their federal Indian Section 166 funds to the states to pay for state "one-stop centers" whose service populations are overwhelmingly non-Indian and which provide few services Indian people need; and
- WHEREAS,** HR 1261 would also give local non-Indian Workforce Investment Boards the ability to require that tribes and other Indian WIA grantees turn over a portion of their federal Indian Section 166 funds for additional support of these same state "one-stop centers"; and
- WHEREAS,** HR 1261 would provide no additional funding to Indian WIA grantees for such purposes; and
- WHEREAS,** other provisions of HR 1261 would slash the funding formula for the WIA tribal Supplemental Youth Services program by 25%; and
- WHEREAS,** HR 1261 would reduce the powers of the Native American Employment and Training Council, the formal advisory committee for the Indian WIA program, by stripping the Council of its right under current law to be consulted on the election of the individual to head the Labor Department's Indian Division; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors strongly opposes these provisions in HR 1261; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges the U.S. Senate and any subsequent House Senate Conference Committee to reject these provisions, respect tribal sovereignty and to strengthen the Indian Section 166 WIA programs.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, Thursday, June 5, 2003.

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

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

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*