



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

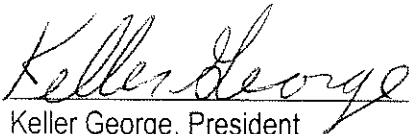
USET Resolution No. 2003:049

BIA RE-ORGANIZATION AND BUDGET ISSUES

- 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,** USET has representatives serving on the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)/Tribal Budget Advisory Council, as nominated by the Board of Directors, who represent the interests of USET Tribes in reviewing priorities for current and upcoming budget cycles; and
- WHEREAS,** in recent Budget Advisory Council Meetings, the members received a briefing on proposed Department Of Interior re-organization plans from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs which caused concerns regarding conflicting budget priorities between the BIA and the Office of Special Trustee (OST); and
- WHEREAS,** USET strongly believes that the advancement of Tribal government priorities and goals are suffering at the expense of implementing trust reform by providing proposed increases in funding to the Office of Special Trustee, while funding to BIA programs were decreased millions of dollars; and
- WHEREAS,** tribes have continually and repeatedly expressed that funding for re-organization must come from new resources and not from re-programed dollars that could negatively affect other BIA programs; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors opposes an increase to the Office of Special Trustee for the re-organization effort at the expense of other BIA programs, and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors understands the need to address trust management funding issues and requests that this be done in a way that works to balance overall BIA and Tribal program needs.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Arlington, VA, Thursday, February 6, 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”



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
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February 14, 2003

Aureen Martin
Acting Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Martin:

I am writing on behalf of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four federally recognized tribes from twelve states. At the USET 2003 Impact Week Meeting held in Arlington, Virginia, February 3-6, 2003, the USET Board of Directors approved several resolutions on various areas of Indian affairs policy. Attached you will find four USET resolutions, pertaining directly to the Department of the Interior, presented for your consideration and advocacy on behalf of our member tribes.

2003:049 (BIA Re-Organization and Budget Issues)

2003:057 (Illegal Gaming by the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma in the State of New York)

2003:060 (Support for the Inclusion of Tribes in the USFWS Lands Acquisitions Process)

2003:061 (Support for Recurring Funding for DOI FWS Tribal Lands Incentive Program and the Tribal Wildlife Grants Program)

Each of these resolutions is a public expression of our member tribes' views and public stances on specific issues affecting Indian country. USET would like to thank you for your continued support of the Tribes and we look forward to working with you to carry out the intent of each resolution. If you have any questions about these resolutions, please call the USET office at (615) 872-7900.

Sincerely,

Tiffany D. Chevront
Bureau Information Officer

"Because there is strength in Unity"