



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:078

FISCAL YEAR 2003 INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE BUDGET PRIORITIES

- 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 House and Senate Conferees will begin meeting to finalize the Fiscal Year 2003 (FY03) appropriations and consider the Senate Omnibus Appropriations bill; and
- WHEREAS,** each year the Indian Health Service (IHS) conducts consultation meetings with tribal governments on a government-to-government basis regarding the development of the IHS budget submission; and
- WHEREAS,** each year the tribes have developed and submitted a needs-based budget in excess of \$18B; and
- WHEREAS,** the needs-based budget is developed to address the disparities that exist when comparing American Indians/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people to the U.S. General Population; and
- WHEREAS,** documented disparities exist in nearly all health care categories, health care spending and access to care when comparing AI/AN people to the U.S. General Population; and
- WHEREAS,** these disparities are compounded by inadequate appropriations for the IHS, whose sole responsibility is to provide health care to the AI/AN population throughout the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS,** although the Omnibus Appropriations bill calls for an increase to the Indian Health Service (IHS) budget, the increase is artificial because it is not sufficient to continue to provide services at the current level; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests that the Appropriation Conferees re-evaluate the Omnibus Appropriations and consider the following budget priorities:
- Agree with the Senate action to restore Administrative/Management reductions in funding and full-time equivalents (FTEs)
 - Fully fund pay costs for civilians and commissioned officers
 - Agree with the Senate action regarding CO health benefit accruals and not assess charges against the IHS
 - Exempt the IHS from any rescission to avoid further erosion of health care services to AI/AN people, but if exemption is not possible then limit the application of the rescission to administrative costs
 - Increase Contract Health Service (CHS) funding by \$15M;
- and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests that the appropriations conferees consider adding language to the Omnibus Appropriations bill to:
- Allow tribes recognized after January 1, 1995 to use contract medical care funds to cover contract support costs, fund programs authorized by Title I of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and build infrastructure
 - Allow Special Diabetes Program for Indians funds appropriated through grants to tribes to remain available until expended

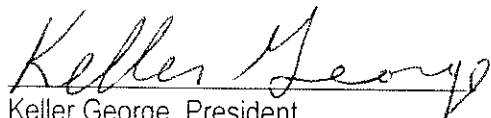
“Because there is strength in Unity”

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- Prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from using funds appropriated to the IHS as a result of the Omnibus Appropriations bill for consolidation, restructuring, realignment of functions, or for any assessments/charges associated with any such consolidation, restructuring, or realignment
- Allow the use of savings from completed health care facilities constructions projects to fund high priority projects currently on the IHS Health Care Facilities Construction Priority Lists.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA on Thursday, February 6, 2003.


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


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

HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
2120 L STREET, N.W. • SUITE 700 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037
TEL: 202.822.8282 • FAX: 202-296-8834
WWW.HSDWLAW.COM

January 30, 2003

FILE

TO: Tribal Clients

FROM: HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER, LLP

RE: Congress Passes FY 03 Continuing Resolution

Because Congress has not yet completed work on the FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations measure (H.J.Res. 2), passage of another Continuing Resolution (CR) was necessary in order provide continued funding for federal agencies, at their proportionate FY 2002 levels. H.J. Res. 13, which will provide FY 2003 funding through February 7th, was approved by the House on January 28 and by the Senate on January 29. The current continuing resolution expires January 31, 2003.

The House and Senate have appointed conferees who will work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the 11 appropriations bills contained in the FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations measure. Congressional leaders hope to complete action on the FY 2003 Omnibus next week. The conferees are:

Senate Conferees

✓ Ted Stevens (R-AK)
✓ Thad Cochran (R-MS)
✓ Arlen Specter (R-PA)
✓ Pete Domenici (R-NM)
✓ Christopher Bond (R-MO)
✓ Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
✓ Conrad Burns (R-MT)
✓ Richard Shelby (R-AL)
✓ Judd Gregg (R-NH)
✓ Robert Bennett (R-UT)
✓ Ben N. Campbell (R-CO)
✓ Larry Craig (R-ID)
✓ Kay B. Hutchison (R-TX)
✓ Mike DeWine (R-OH)
✓ Sam Brownback (R-KS)

✓ Robert Byrd (D-WV)
✓ Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
✓ Ernest Hollings (D-SC)
✓ Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
✓ Tom Harkin (D-IA)
✓ Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
✓ Harry Reid (D-NV)
✓ Herbert Kohl (D-WI)
✓ Patty Murray (D-WA)
✓ Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
✓ Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
✓ Richard Durbin (D-IL)
✓ Tim Johnson (D-SD)
✓ Mary Landrieu (D-LA)

House Conferees

✓ C.W. Young (R-FL)
✓ Ralph Regula (R-OH)
✓ Harold Rogers (R-KY)
✓ Frank Wolf (R-VA)
✓ Jim Kolbe (R-AZ)
✓ James Walsh (R-NY)
✓ Charles Taylor (R-NC)
✓ David Hobson (R-OH)
✓ Ernest Istook (R-OK)
✓ Henry Bonilla (R-TX)
✓ Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI)
✓ Jack Kingston (R-GA)

✓ David Obey (D-WI)
✓ John Murtha (D-PA)
✓ Norm Dicks (D-WA)
✓ Martin Sabo (D-MN)
✓ Alan Mollohan (D-WV)
✓ Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
✓ Peter Visclosky (D-IN)
✓ Nita Lowey (D-NY)
✓ Jose Serrano (D-NY)
✓ James Moran (D-VA)

We will continue to keep you updated on developments regarding the FY 2003 funding for the IHS, BIA and other federal agencies. Please contact Karen Funk (kfunk@hswdc.com) or

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Marie Osceola-Branch (mosceola-branch@hswdc.com), 202-822-8282, if we may provide additional information or assistance regarding this matter.

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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214
Telephone: (615) 872-7900 • Fax: (615) 872-7417

February 10, 2003

Dr. Charles W. Grim
Interim Director
Indian Health Service Headquarters
Reyes Building
801 Thompson Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20852-1627

Dear Dr. Grim:

The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), recently held their Impact Week Meeting in Arlington, VA on February 3-6, 2003. During the recent meeting, the USET Board of Directors passed many resolutions addressing various issues. The following resolution is specific to the Indian Health Service budget for Fiscal Year 2003 and has been attached for your records.

- USET Resolution No. 2003:078 - Fiscal Year 2003 Indian Health Service Budget Priorities

The resolution officially represents the position of each USET Member Tribe and has been provided for your use should related issues arise. Please share copies with your staff, especially those who work directly with the issues addressed in the resolution. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call my office at (615) 872-7900.

Sincerely,

James T. Martin
Executive Director

JTM/ard
attachment

"Because there is strength in Unity"



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February 10, 2003

Mr. Michel E. Lincoln
Deputy Director
Indian Health Service Headquarters
Reyes Building
801 Thompson Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20852-1627

Dear Mr. Lincoln:

The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), recently held their Impact Week Meeting in Arlington, VA on February 3-6, 2003. During the recent meeting, the USET Board of Directors passed many resolutions addressing various issues. The following resolution is specific to the Indian Health Service budget for Fiscal Year 2003 and has been attached for your records.

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February 10, 2003

Ms. Jennifer Farley
Deputy Associate Director
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW; 106 EEOB
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Farley:

The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), recently held their Impact Week Meeting in Arlington, VA on February 3-6, 2003. During the recent meeting, the USET Board of Directors passed many resolutions addressing various issues. The following resolution is specific to the Indian Health Service budget for Fiscal Year 2003 and has been attached for your records.

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February 10, 2003

Dr. Eric B. Broderick
Senior Advisor for Tribal Health Policy
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 630F, HHH Building
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Broderick:

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February 10, 2003

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Conferees to H.J. Res 2
H-218 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Representative Dicks:

The United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), recently held their Impact Week Meeting in Arlington, VA on February 3-6, 2003. During the recent meeting, the USET Board of Directors passed many resolutions addressing various issues. The following resolution is specific to the Indian Health Service budget for Fiscal Year 2003 and has been attached for your records.

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February 10, 2003

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Senator Durbin:

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