



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:085

BIA RESTRUCTURING AND THE NEEDS OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES

- 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 Bureau of Indian Affairs (the "BIA") is undergoing a major internal restructuring as a part of its effort to address the problem of trust reform; and
- WHEREAS,** USET is concerned that this restructuring and the BIA's focus on trust reform may cause the agency to neglect the needs of its Regional Offices and to discount the value of the services they provide to the Indian tribes in their respective areas; and
- WHEREAS,** the BIA, in connection with its restructuring initiative, has scheduled a consultation meeting with the USET tribes during the month of June that conflicts with a pre-existing NCAI meeting, thereby making it impossible for several USET tribes to participate in this important consultation process; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors requests that the scheduled Reorganization Consultation meeting the week of June 16 be moved to the week of June 23 in order to better accommodate the travel schedules of USET Tribal Leaders; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors encourages the BIA not to allow its trust reform restructuring initiative to undermine the importance and mission of its various Regional Offices; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the BIA to publicly reaffirm its commitment to its Regional Offices and to the programs and services they deliver to Indian Country.

CERTIFICATION

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

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

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