



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

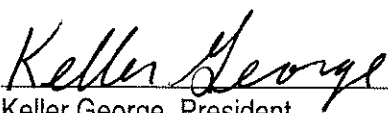
USET Resolution No. 2004:033

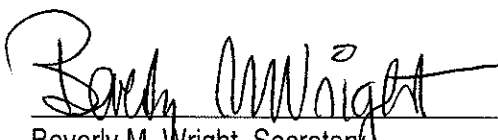
OPPOSITION TO THE ANTICIPATED AMENDMENT TO NAHASDA THROUGH THE FY 2004 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

- 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 Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) of 1996 affirmed the government-to-government relationship of the federal government, individual tribes and Alaskan Native villages; and
- WHEREAS,** NAHASDA further affirmed the sovereignty of the individual tribes and Alaskan Native villages and their rights to self-determination; and
- WHEREAS,** NAHASDA provided for the funding formula developed through the negotiated rulemaking process, to determine the allocation of housing appropriations funds to the tribes and Alaskan Native villages; and
- WHEREAS,** any effort to amend NAHASDA through the appropriations process would circumvent the regular legislative process and would deny tribal leaders the opportunity for consultation in the process; and
- WHEREAS,** any effort to amend NAHASDA that will affect the funding formula should receive consideration by the appropriate negotiated rulemaking committee holding jurisdiction; and
- WHEREAS,** it is anticipated that Senator Stevens (R-AK), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee will provide a rider to the Veteran's Administration/Department of Housing and Urban Development (VA/HUD) appropriations bill that will amend the NAHASDA statute specifically to Alaskan Native villages without normal legislative review process. Said anticipated legislation is contrary to tribal sovereignty and self-determination and will further reduce the limited NAHASDA funding to the tribes in the remaining contiguous 48-states due to the fact that the rider will designate \$114 million per annum for Alaska; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors strongly opposes any effort to amend NAHASDA through the appropriations process and further, strongly recommends that any and all efforts to amend NAHASDA be done through the regular legislative process with the opportunity for full tribal participation

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Mashantucket, CT, on Thursday, October 23, 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”