



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2005:65

REQUEST FOR THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) TO ASSIST TRIBES IN CORRECTING PROBLEMS WITHIN THE REGIONAL SUPPLY CENTER IN ADA, OKLAHOMA

- 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,** American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) suffer from all major diseases at a disproportionate rate when compared to the U.S. general population; and
- WHEREAS,** in most cases, these diseases are controlled and/or treated using pharmaceutical therapy in addition to other therapeutic efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** pharmaceutical costs are the fastest rising costs in the health care industry; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribes are required to obtain their pharmaceuticals and supplies through the Indian Health Service utilizing the Regional Supply Center, the only facility through which Tribes can access the Veterans Administration prime vendor; and
- WHEREAS,** conducting business with the Regional Supply Center has become increasingly difficult for Tribal programs due to pre-payment requirement of pharmaceuticals and supplies, as well as, other deficiencies within the billing system and escalating overhead costs; and
- WHEREAS,** a direct relationship between Tribal health care delivery systems and the pharmaceutical prime vendor who supplies the Regional Supply Center is needed to avoid pre-payment of costs for pharmaceuticals and supplies; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors requests that Dr. Grim, Director of Indian Health Service, advocate for a Pilot Project that would allow the IHS Nashville Area Office to assist tribal health care delivery systems in establishing a direct working relationship with the Pharmaceutical Prime Vendor that the Regional Supply Center utilizes, and also allowing tribes to seek other cost effective and efficient alternatives of their choice.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting at which a quorum was present in Mashantucket, CT on Thursday, June 30, 2005.

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

Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.