



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2005:066

### REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION ON AGING TO LOWER THE AGE THRESHOLD FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- 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,** there are large health disparities among the American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) compared to the U.S. general population; and
- WHEREAS,** the average lifespan of an AI/AN living on a reservation is 57 years, which is significantly below that of the U.S. general population due to health disparities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Social Security Administration's (SSA) threshold for program participation is 50 enrollees whom are 60 years of age or older; and
- WHEREAS,** the 60 year old threshold prevents several AI/AN communities from fully participating in the Administration of Aging (ADA) grant programs due to the high rate of morbidity/mortality among AI/AN; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges the Administration on Aging (AOA) lower the age threshold for program participation to 55 years in order to allow for more AI/AN communities to participate and benefit from the programs available through the agency; therefore, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Administration and Congress to engage and consult with Tribal Governments in the development of the agency's reauthorization legislation; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors instructs the USET Executive Director to bring forth at the next USET meeting a legislative proposal to permit program participation for enrollees over 50 years of age, in this and all applicable programs.

#### 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.