



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2006:031

SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING LEVELS FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND INDIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

- 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 of 1996 (NAHASDA), P.L. 104-330, as amended, was passed by the United States Congress to provide low-income housing for American Indian families; and
- WHEREAS,** NAHASDA recognized the right of tribal self-determination; and
- WHEREAS,** the Native American Housing Block Grant (NAHBG) program is a key element for funding tribal housing programs under NAHASDA, and funding under the HUD Appropriations has been reduced for the past several years to the \$623.7 million level; and the Administration's Request for Fiscal Year 2007 reflects a marginal increase to \$625.7 million, and reductions to the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Program are down to \$57.4 million; and
- WHEREAS,** HUD reports that many of the nation's worst case housing needs continue to be experienced among American Indians; and
- WHEREAS,** current NAHBG and ICDBG funding levels are insufficient to make worthwhile progress in solving the housing needs of American Indians and, in fact, the housing needs are increasing rather than decreasing at current funding levels; and
- WHEREAS,** a recent study by the National American Indian Housing Council concluded that the minimum funding necessary in order for Indian Country to make progress in housing its people has risen to over \$1 billion per year; and
- WHEREAS;** the Administration's Request for fiscal year 2007 does not take into account inflation; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors does hereby join with the Native American Indian Housing Council to support increasing annual appropriations over the next five years by Congress for the NAHBG and the ICDBG programs in order to achieve a level of funding of \$1 billion per year; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors does hereby respectfully request that the National Congress of American Indians, regional American Indian associations and organizations join USET and NAIHC to advocate aggressively for the increased funding level, and be it further
- RESOLVED** that no language be included in the FY 2007 Appropriations without Tribal consultation that would change the Tribal formula funding.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 9, 2006.

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

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

"Because there is strength in Unity"