



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2006:048

SUPPORT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST

- 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,** since at least 1975 the fundamental policy of Congress with respect to American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) tribes/villages has been to encourage the policy of self-determination and self-governance; and
- WHEREAS,** as part of the Federal Government's unique political relationship with Tribal Governments, the Indian Health Service (IHS), in partnership with Tribes, provides health care to members of more than 560 Federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** an estimated 1.9 million AI/ANs will be eligible beneficiaries for IHS services in 2007, an increase of 1.6 percent over 2006; and
- WHEREAS,** in order to provide quality services adequate appropriations are required to make a positive impact on the health status of the AI/AN population; and
- WHEREAS,** the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Presidents Budget supports the missions of the HHS, IHS and Tribal Governments by requesting increased appropriations to Contract Health Service, Contract Support Costs, Population Growth and Inflation as well as other important line items; and
- WHEREAS,** the FY07 budget request for the IHS was \$3.1 billion, with a net increase of \$124 million over the FY06 budget; and
- WHEREAS,** the IHS has received requests for increases in several line items while other HHS Divisions have received requests for decreases; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments are concerned with the severe cut made to the Urban Indian line item, however, would like to protect the increases requested by the President against reshuffling to restore the Urban Indian appropriation or a portion thereof; and
- WHEREAS,** the true need identified to fully meet the health care needs of the AI/AN population is approximately \$18B, however in the current funding environment any increase is appreciated; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors appreciates, endorses and supports the FY07 President's Budget Request; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests the Congress to support the requested increases and add additional increases to assist the IHS and Tribal Governments to further meet the health care delivery service needs of the AI/AN population; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests the Congress to carefully review the Health Care Facilities Construction line item within the FY07 IHS Appropriations debate and provide clarification to Tribal Governments regarding when construction projects will be continued; and, finally be it

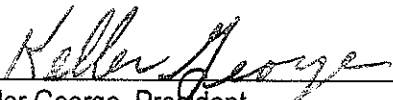
“Because there is strength in Unity”


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RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests that at a minimum the President's Budget Request for the IHS be protected from any other deficits, including the Urban Indian line item Congress may wish to restore.

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.