



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

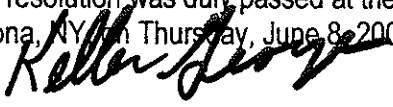
USET Resolution No. 2006:050


REQUEST FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO SEPARATE WATER MANAGEMENT AND WATER RIGHTS LITIGATION FUNDS

- 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,** under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Public Law 93-638, as amended, 25 U.S.C. 450, and the Snyder Act of 1921, Public Law 67-85, 25 U.S.C. 13, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is authorized to obligate funds to federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** a portion of these funds are allocated to the BIA Water Management Planning and Pre-Development (Water Management) program for collection and analysis of baseline data, and for Water Rights Litigation and Negotiation (Water Rights) activities; and
- WHEREAS,** projects proposed by USET member Tribes have historically been awarded through the Water Management program; and
- WHEREAS,** it has come to the attention of USET member Tribes that the BIA has been utilizing water management funds for Water Rights litigation, resulting in a significant reduction of the funding available for water resource management programs; and
- WHEREAS,** due to the reduction in funding, USET Tribal natural resource departments have been forced to reduce or eliminate some water resource programs, thus severely impacting Tribes' abilities to meet federal goals for monitoring water quality improvement and habitat restoration programs thereby jeopardizing access to clean and safe drinking water; and
- WHEREAS,** during the USET 2006 Impact Week Meeting in Arlington, Virginia, the USET Natural Resources Committee met with BIA Central Office Natural Resources staff to stress the importance of Water Management activities to USET member Tribes and to request that these funding sources remain separate; and
- WHEREAS,** despite our request, the 2007 BIA Budget Justification includes new language that will essentially combine the two funding sources; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the BIA to recognize and acknowledge the importance and significance of Water Management activities to USET member Tribes and to disallow the transfer of Water Management Planning and Pre-Development funding to other programs, including Water Rights Litigation and Negotiation, without formal authorization from Congress.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, June 8, 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”