



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2006:053

**POSITION ON H.R. 5386 APPROPRIATION BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
(BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS)**

- 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 represents the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** on May 18, 2006 the House approved its Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill (H.R. 5386, H. Report 109-465), which funds the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); and
- WHEREAS,** USET provided testimony on Tribal priorities and unmet needs to the BIA in order to insure that Tribal budgetary concerns were heard and included in the BIA Budget; and
- WHEREAS,** although there are some positive aspects included in H.R. 5386, there are also many programs that are facing reductions and possible elimination that, if adopted by Congress, could prove detrimental to Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the inclusion of the following items in H.R. 5386:
- Overall increase of \$19 million to fully fund Contract Support Costs
 - Increase of \$4.5 million for law enforcement activities
 - Restoration of \$16.4 million for Johnson O'Malley; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly opposes H.R. 5386 proposed reduction or elimination of the following:
- Reduction of \$11 million to Welfare Assistance
 - Reduction of \$2.6 million to Road Maintenance
 - Reduction of \$1.9 million to Water Management
 - Reduction of \$5.5 million to Tribal Courts
 - Total Elimination of the Community Fire Program in the amount of \$1 million
 - Total Elimination of the Community Development Program in the amount of \$10 million; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls on members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to address reductions to these vital Indian programs; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the Senate Appropriations Committee to work with Tribes in an effort to restore funding to these programs in the Fiscal Year 2007 BIA Budget.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NJ, 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”