



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.


USET Resolution No. 2007-021

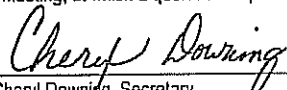
POSITION ON FISCAL YEAR 2008 PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET
FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

- WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc (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 February 6, 2007 the President released the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Budget Request to the public; and
- WHEREAS, the President's Proposed FY 2008 Budget includes \$2.2 Billion in total funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which is \$1.0 Million below the FY 2006 enacted amount; and
- WHEREAS, the USET Tribes have been very active in the formulation of the initial FY 2008 BIA budget submitted to the Department of Interior to be included in the final version of the President's Proposed FY 2008 Budget Request; and
- WHEREAS, the USET Tribes, along with Tribes from across the country, provided testimony on Tribal priorities and unmet needs to the BIA in order to ensure that Tribal fiscal concerns were heard and included in the BIA budget; and
- WHEREAS, there are some positive aspects included in the President's Proposed FY 2008 budget for the BIA, which Tribes can support, but 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 the final FY 2008 BIA budget:
- Overall increase of \$15.0 Million in BIA Bureau of Indian Education school-system
 - Increases of \$16.0 Million for law enforcement activities
- and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly opposes the following budgetary provisions that would be detrimental to many USET Tribes and the administration's reasoning that these are "poor performing" or "duplicative" programs that should be reduced or eliminated:
- Total elimination of the Johnson O'Malley program in the amount of \$7.7 Million
 - Reduction of \$5.0 Million to the Higher Education Scholarships
 - Total Elimination of the Housing Improvement Program in the amount of \$23.4 Million
 - Zero funding for the Community Fire Program
- and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls on members of the United States Congress to address reductions to these vital Indian programs and to work with Tribes in an effort to restore funding to these programs in the final FY 2008 Bureau of Indian Affairs/Department of the Interior Budget.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 15, 2007.


Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"