



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

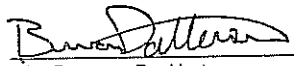
USET Resolution No. 2007:030

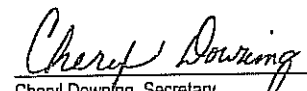
CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO COMBINING BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WATER MANAGEMENT AND WATER RIGHTS FUNDING

- 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, historically, funding for the BIA Water Management and Water Rights programs have been separately justified by BIA and separately funded by Congress; and
- WHEREAS, in past years, the BIA, without Tribal consultation or Congressional approval, has shifted Water Management funds to Water Rights, and in a Memorandum dated June 21, 1985, the Senate Indian Affairs Committee found that this shift violates Congressional intent and reprogramming guidelines, and demonstrated a lack of accountability by BIA officials; and
- WHEREAS, in FY 2006, the BIA, with disregard to the above mentioned memo, once again with no Tribal consultation, made changes to the allocation formulas of the Water Management and Water Rights programs and included new language in the FY 2007 BIA Budget Justification to essentially combine the two sources; and
- WHEREAS, USET has attempted to address this issue in Resolution Nos. 2005:024 and 2006:050, but has received no adequate response or remedy from the BIA; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly urges the BIA to recognize and acknowledge the importance and significance of Water Management activities to USET Tribes; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that language in the BIA Budget Justification supporting the combination of Water Management and Water Rights funding be stricken and appropriately amended until government-to-government consultation has occurred.

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"