



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

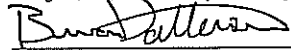
USET Resolution No. 2007-035

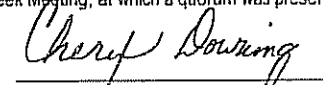
SUPPORT FOR INCREASE IN NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE FUNDING

- 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, in furtherance of the federal policy supporting Tribal Self-Determination, in the 1992 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Tribes were authorized to assume historic preservation activities and responsibilities under NHPA with respect to Tribal lands; and
- WHEREAS, since Fiscal Year 1996, the program has grown from 12 Tribes with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) to 66 Tribes with THPOs in FY 2007. Now whereas, for the past three years, the National Park Service (NPS) has entered into an average of seven new written agreements with Tribes to undertake NHPA activities through a THPO program; and
- WHEREAS, with the numbers of THPOs increasing annually, it is estimated that there will be 73 THPOs in 2008; and
- WHEREAS, despite rapidly growing THPO programs, funding remained relatively flat from FY 2002 through FY 2005 with a meaningful but insufficient increase of \$795,000 by Congress in 2006 which was preserved in the President's FY 2007 budget request; and
- WHEREAS, the role of a THPO is crucial to the preservation and protection of non-renewable cultural, historic and sacred resources of all Tribes; and
- WHEREAS, at current funding levels, THPOs lack the resources to adequately fulfill their historic preservation obligations outlined in their agreements with the NPS; and
- WHEREAS, to operate as intended under the NHPA, the estimated 73 Tribes operating THPO programs in FY 2008 will need an increase in historic preservation funding; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests a separate line item in the Historic Preservation Fund for support of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office Program; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the Native American Tribal Historic Preservation Office in requesting appropriation of \$12 million dollars in the FY 2008 Department of the Interior budget for a line item to support the Tribal Historic Preservation Office Program; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports proportionally increased funding levels with the number of new THPOs entering the program.

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"