



USET Resolution No. 2008:031

**RESPONSE TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 PRESIDENTS BUDGET REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RELATED PROGRAMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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,** on February 4, 2008, the President released the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request including, but not limited to, requests for Tribal natural resources and environmental program funding within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and
- WHEREAS,** adequate funding is necessary to manage and protect culturally significant plant species, fish and wildlife populations, and associated ecological habitats, and to ensure the health of Tribal communities through access to safe drinking water, clean air quality, and decreased occurrence of toxins in traditional foods and medicines; and
- WHEREAS,** USET representatives are actively involved in advisory committees that provide budget recommendations and justification for inclusion in the President's Budget Request, including the EPA National Tribal Caucus (NTC); therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon members of the United States Congress to address insufficient funding in Tribal natural resources and environmental programs and to strongly consider budget recommendations that are provided by Tribal budget advisory committees; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the funding recommendations of the National Tribal Caucus as follows:
- Cleaner Air and Global Climate Change – \$34,245,000
  - Clean and Safe Water – \$146,198,000
  - Land Preservation and Restoration – \$85,726,230
  - Healthy Ecosystem and Communities – \$31,030,000+
  - Compliance and Environmental Stewardship – \$76,420,000.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 14, 2008.

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

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

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*