



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2008:003

### REQUEST FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO CONSULT WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS REGARDING USE OF 2000 CENSUS DATA

- 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,** the USET member Tribes recognize that U.S. Census Bureau data may be used by Federal Agencies in determining distribution of scarce federal funding; and
- WHEREAS,** the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) is considering use of 2000 Census data as an accurate and consistent source for determining Tribal population and land-base; and
- WHEREAS,** the EPA has not consulted with Tribal Governments regarding the use of census data in any determination of Tribal population, land-base, or similar measures, and
- WHEREAS,** Presidential Executive Order 13175 directs all Federal Agencies to conduct meaningful consultation with Tribal Governments regarding issues that affect them; and
- WHEREAS,** if 2000 Census data is used by the EPA in funding allocations or similar distribution formulas, it could result in the significant reduction of services to Indian populations both on and off the reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** for example, in EPA Region 1, the 2000 Census data under-represents the Tribal population by 78% and the land-base by 29%; similarly, in EPA Region 4, the Tribal population is under-represented by 27% and land-base by 44%; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors discourages and will not support the use of 2000 Census data by the Environmental Protection Agency in determining Tribal population, land-base or similar measures; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Environmental Protection Agency to consult with Tribal Governments regarding use of 2000 Census data or any proposed changes to funding allocations in accordance with Presidential Executive Order 13175.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, October 18, 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”*