



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2009:009

### SUPPORT FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR NASHVILLE AREA INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SANITATION FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

- 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,** a U.S. Government treaty obligation exists to provide health services for 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN); and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Health Service (IHS), under the direction of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), provides for the well being of members of federally recognized Indian Tribes through the Office of Public Health to comply with the treaty obligations; and
- WHEREAS,** one of the programs administered by the IHS Office of Public Health is the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program (SFCP); and
- WHEREAS,** it is known that when safe water and adequate wastewater disposal systems are available in the home, they are of fundamental importance to social and economic development, which leads to an improved quality of life and an improved sense of well-being for Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** HHS provides an annual budget to the IHS for the SFCP for the installation and repair of safe drinking water supplies and adequate wastewater disposal systems for tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** these funds are divided amongst the twelve areas of the IHS; and
- WHEREAS,** the NAO of the IHS services the member Tribes of USET for the SFCP; and
- WHEREAS,** the SFCP funding for Nashville Area has remained stagnant at \$3.4 million for the last seven budget years; and
- WHEREAS,** the need for IHS SFCP funds continues to escalate year after year, and the cost of construction of wells and wastewater treatment disposal systems have doubled in the past six years; and
- WHEREAS,** due to the lack of sufficient funding to the Nashville Area SFCP, many Tribes have not been awarded funding for several years leaving the Tribes unable to provide safe drinking water facilities and adequate wastewater disposal systems for their members in both existing homes and for new construction homes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly urges the Chief of the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction to provide adequate funding to the Nashville Area Office to provide the desperately needed safe drinking water and adequate wastewater disposal systems for the American Indians/Alaska Natives living in the tribally designated areas of USET Tribes; and, be it further

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

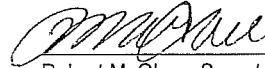
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests the Director of Indian Health Service, Robert G. McSwain, to increase the annual budget to \$14 million from Congress for the provision of Sanitation Facilities Construction for American Indians/Alaska Natives in the upcoming budget session and future budget sessions to comply with the U.S. Government treaty obligations to provide the needed health services.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed by the USET Board of Directors on Thursday, October 16, 2008.



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



Robert McGhee, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.