



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2009:021

SUPPORT FOR FUNDING NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING PROGRAMS

- 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 United States (U.S.) Congress recognized the need for housing assistance and economic development in Indian Country when they passed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) as amended;
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$854 Million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 and \$875 Million in FY 2011 just to keep pace with inflation since the program was funded at \$600 Million in FY 1997, yet all indications are that at least \$1 Billion is needed annually to meet Tribal housing needs nationally; and
- WHEREAS,** previous Presidential budget requests included significant reductions for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which includes a significant reduction for the Indian Community Development Block Grant and elimination of funding for Rural Housing and Economic Development, programs that are vitally important to Tribal housing programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Senate has proposed a new program to provide Economic Development Assistance to Tribes with broad support from Tribal housing programs at an initial level of \$12 Million; and
- WHEREAS,** previous Presidential budget requests proposed a reduction of the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant, but should be funded at \$20 Million for FY 2010 and FY 2011 to address the vast unmet housing needs of Native Hawaiians; and
- WHEREAS,** previous Presidential budget requests proposed a reduction in funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service Sanitations Facilities Construction Program, an infrastructure program vital to health and well-being of our people; and
- WHEREAS,** previous Presidential budget requests proposed complete elimination of funding for programs vital to Tribal housing programs, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program and U.S. Department of Agriculture direct loan programs for single and multi-families; and
- WHEREAS,** Indian Country sorely needs these programs fully funded to support the development of affordable housing for American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians who face some of the most deplorable housing and living conditions in the United States; therefore, be it

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- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges Congress to reverse cuts and elimination of funding for Tribal housing programs that are so vital to Indian Country, within the
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
 - U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture;
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service;
- and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$20 Million for FY 2010 and FY 2011; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the Indian Housing Block Grant should be funded at \$854 Million for FY 2010 and \$875 Million in FY 2011 just to keep pace with inflation; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests an increase of funding from the United States Congress to at least keep pace with inflation from FY 1997 funding levels and also increased levels of funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant are at a level commensurate with the \$1 Billion need; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that at no time will the funds provided within the Economic Stimulus Bill have a negative monetary impact on the FY 2010 and FY 2011 budgets.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 12, 2009.



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



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

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