



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

Nashville TN Office
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Ste. 100
Nashville TN 37214
P: (615) 872-7900
F: (615) 872-7417

Washington DC Office
400 North Capitol St., Ste. 585
Washington DC 20001
P: (202) 624-3550
F: (202) 393-5218

USET SPF Resolution No. 2019 SPF:021

CALLING UPON CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO ENSURE NECESSARY FUNDING AND FLEXIBILITY FOR TRIBAL NATIONS' HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENTS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress and the Administration have have a trust obligation to assist Tribal Nations to protect all citizens, Native and non-Native within their jurisdictions; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2003, Congress has allocated over \$55 billion in homeland security grant funds to state and local governments and, at the same time, has allocated just over \$70 million in homeland security grant funding to Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations' Homeland Security and Emergency Management Departments are often the first and, many times, the only responders to disasters in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the funding agency for all grant funding allocated/authorized by Congress to support the National Preparedness Goal; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS allows FEMA to dictate competitive grant processes and procedures in such a way that funding for Tribal emergency management programmatic support remains largely allocated directly to and controlled by states; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations and Tribal emergency management organizations have limited access to direct funding from DHS, and some current funding mechanisms require Tribal Nations and their emergency management organizations to seek funds through state governments; and
- WHEREAS,** there are glaring disparities and eligibility restrictions for Tribal Nations, as compared to states, in funding across an array of DHS grant programs, to include but not limited to; Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, Pre-disaster Mitigation Grants, Preparedness Grants, Assistance to firefighters grants and Emergency Management Performance Grants; Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS must work with Tribal Nations to identify and eliminate both procedural and current eligibility impediments by working directly with Tribal Nations; to facilitate greater access to Homeland Security grant program; and

- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it resolved;
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to offer a full complement of agency programs, to provide greater access and equitable, baseline funding to Tribal Nations across those agency programs; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to reaffirm its commitment to building a strong and lasting partnership with Tribal Nations by directly funding Tribal Nations to build, sustain, and improve their capabilities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Congress to allow the Department of Homeland Security reallocate funding to federally recognized Tribal Nations and to prioritize Tribal acquisitions of homeland security equipment purchased with federal grant funds and considered surplus by state and local governments; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon Congress to increase the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program to \$20 Million dollars in annual funding for Tribal Direct Grants for the next five years.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA on March 7, 2019.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund

Because there is Strength in Unity