REQUEST TO ELEVATE OFFICE OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS WITHIN NATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH/AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCE AND DISEASE REGISTRY

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR) Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA) provides environmental health support to American Indian and Alaska Native populations throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, although the OTA is tangentially located within the NCEH/ATSDR Office of the Director, existing OTA staff report directly to the NCEH/ATSDR Office for Policy, Planning and Evaluation (OPPE); and

WHEREAS, OTA placement within the NCEH/ATSDR OPPE creates confusion regarding office authorities and responsibilities, and fails to elevate Tribal environmental health issues to the level of the Director; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests the Office of Tribal Affairs be moved to the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR) Office of the Director and that an Associate Director for Tribal Affairs be named.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, on Thursday, November 10, 2011.

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

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.