UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMITTEE FISCAL YEAR 2013 AND 2014 FUNDING PRIORITIES

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, adequate funding for Tribal cultural resource programs is essential to the spiritual, health, social, and economic well-being of the Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the USET Culture & Heritage Committee has identified the following funding priorities in support of Tribal historic preservation programs:

- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- Tribal Historic Preservation Office Program
- Tribal Cultural Programs; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a special trust responsibility to Indian Tribes that is confirmed through various treaties and executive orders; and

WHEREAS, this special relationship must be considered when analyzing budget priorities in adherence to the President’s sound fiscal responsibility and deficit reduction efforts; and

WHEREAS, any reduction in Tribal Historic Preservation would equate to a drastic reduction to already severely underfunded program; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls for the exemption of all Indian programs from any mandatory budget reduction imposed for Fiscal Year 2013 and beyond; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests the United States Congress to support the identified funding priorities for Tribal historic preservation programs.

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.

BrendaLintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.