



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2011:043

**REQUEST TO AMEND THE CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT
TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR BEST AVAILABLE EMPLOYMENT DATA**

- 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 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides funding assistance to Tribal water and waste disposal facilities and services to alleviate significant health risks through the Water and Waste Disposal Grants program (Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended, Section 306C, Public Law 92-419, 7 USC 1926c); and
- WHEREAS,** the eligibility requirements for funding recipients include a per capita income of residents of no more than 70% of the national average as determined by the U.S. Department of Commerce, and an unemployment rate of residents that is no less than 125% of the most recent national average unemployment rate as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS; 7 USC 1926c (a)(2)(A); and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal unemployment data may not be accurately reflected in BLS analysis due to varying levels of Tribal participation in state unemployment programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the best available data, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs Labor Force Report, must be used when determining Tribal employment status; and
- WHEREAS,** lack of access to funding for essential water and waste disposal facilities and services hinders the Tribes' ability to provide safe drinking water and sanitary living conditions in Tribal communities and poses a significant health risk to Tribal members; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors respectfully calls upon the United States Congress to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended, to include provisions for use of the best available employment data when determining Water and Waste Disposal Grant program eligibility of Tribal applicants.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 10, 2011.

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

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