United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2011:044

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC. NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FISCAL YEAR 2012 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 energy, natural resources and environmental programs is essential to the health, social and economic well being of Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the USET Natural Resources Committee has identified the following Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 funding priorities in support of Tribal energy, natural resources and environmental programs:

- Environmental Protection Agency Indian Environmental General Assistance Program
- Indian Health Service Operation and Maintenance Funding for Tribal Public Water Systems
- Department of Energy Capacity Development and Implementation
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Management, Planning and Pre-Development Programs
- Environmental Protection Agency Multimedia Tribal Implementation Grants Program; 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, a proposed reduction to FY 2008 levels, with inflation considered, would equate to a drastic reduction to already severely underfunded Indian programs; 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 2012 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 energy, natural resources and environmental programs.

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.