



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2013:004

SUPPORT FOR FUNDING OF SECTION 703 OF NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996 FOR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- 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 (U.S.) Congress recognized the need for housing assistance and economic development in Indian Country when it passed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) as amended; and
- WHEREAS,** NAHASDA clearly states in Section 703 that funding be provided to a national organization representing Native American housing interests to provide training and technical assistance; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribes and Tribal housing programs fully supported and felt it was essential to include language in Section 703 of NAHASDA that created a responsive and effective training and technical assistance program that met their specific and unique needs; and
- WHEREAS,** this training and technical assistance is essential for all of Indian Country to assist Tribes to stay in compliance with NAHASDA regulations and to train their staff regarding housing regulations, policies, and procedures; and
- WHEREAS,** this training and technical assistance has historically been provided by the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) through Section 703 of NAHASDA; and
- WHEREAS,** during the Fiscal Year 2012 budget and appropriations process, the U.S. Congress, at the request of the Administration, included language that altered the manner in which the training and technical assistance was to be funded and delivered; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) published a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) on August 28, 2012 that implements major changes in the delivery of training and technical assistance from previous NAIHC delivery; and
- WHEREAS,** Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000, requires consultation with Tribal Governments when developing federal policies that impact Tribes; and

WHEREAS, this change to NAHASDA necessitates a government-to-government consultation that will allow American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes the opportunity to provide input before changes to federal policies are implemented; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Native American Programs to halt the Notice of Funds Availability process until Tribal Leaders have an opportunity to provide critical input and consultation regarding that Office's changes to the Fiscal Year 2012 Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 training and technical assistance program funds; and be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors urges Department of Housing and Urban Development Office to begin an official Tribal consultation before the end of calendar year 2012 in order to formulate a policy that meets the unique needs of Tribal communities and honors its responsibility to respect the tenets of Tribal sovereignty and the rights of self-determination as laid out by laws and treaty obligations.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Uncasville, CT, on Friday, October 12, 2012.



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”