



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2012:048

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND INDIAN TRIBES ON THE NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS GRANT STRATEGY

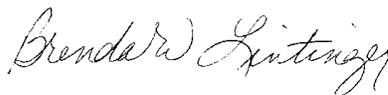
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Emergency Services Departments strive to protect their lands and people from homeland security threats and to initiate protective measures similar to the states; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member Tribes have not had the same opportunities for capacity-building that states have had through over a decade of the United States Department of Homeland Security funding to increase their homeland security program infrastructure as states have received billions of Federal program dollars, while Tribes have only in the last 4 years made progress in accessing bare minimum grants; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP), administered by FEMA, was created to provide Tribal direct funding to implement preparedness initiatives; and
- WHEREAS,** the Fiscal Year 2012 guidelines have been issued for the THSGP, and though grants are not funded at the level of need that Tribes have requested, the grant program is functional; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has worked for years to get the THSGP in place, however, the proposed FY 2013 budget strategy will eliminate the THSGP and combine all grants into the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP); and
- WHEREAS,** USET is concerned that within the National Preparedness Grant Program there are no grants that specifically acknowledge Tribal Government eligibility in grant programs, and other grant programs for which Tribes would have been eligible for will be absorbed into the NPGP; and
- WHEREAS,** the administration's FY 2013 budget strategy and the accompanying grant eligibility criteria was developed in consultation with State Governors and State emergency managers, without input from Tribal Leaders and Tribal emergency managers; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed changes are critical to Tribal Governments' homeland security participation in national coordinated efforts and are integral to local Tribal community public safety; and therefore be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly recommends that no further action be taken on the proposed FY 2013 National Preparedness Grant Strategy until the United States Department of Homeland Security has initiated meaningful consultation with Indian Tribes under Executive Order 13175.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 24, 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”