



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. 2013:033

SUPPORT FOR INDIAN COUNTRY PROVISIONS AND PASSAGE OF 2013 FARM BILL

- 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 Farm Bill is multi-year legislation that governs an array of agricultural and food programs under the purview of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); and
- WHEREAS,** the 2008 Farm Bill, also known as *The Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008*, expired on September 30, 2012; and legislative delays resulted in the failure to pass the 2012 Farm Bill; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress passed *The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012* (P.L. 112-240) to extend all 2008 Farm Bill provisions until September 30, 2013; and
- WHEREAS,** initiatives to enact a 2013 Farm Bill have been launched through S. 954 in the U.S. Senate and H.R. 1947 in the U.S. House of Representatives which would set national policy for agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry; and
- WHEREAS,** the array of programs authorized and funded by the Farm Bill are of critical importance to all Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** the reconciliation of the Senate and House versions of the 2013 Farm Bill would ultimately lead to the establishment of national policy and authorizing funding levels for the next five-year period; and
- WHEREAS,** the enacted 2013 Farm Bill must contain policies and funding levels that fulfill the nation's trust responsibility to Tribes through enhancement and support of important opportunities in rural economic development, job creation, and energy; natural resources and agricultures; nutrition and health; youth, education, and technical assistance and markets and exports; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2013 Farm Bill negotiations, and resulting policies and funding must include perspectives from Indian Country, so Tribes are afforded parity, opportunity, and consistency under the law; and
- WHEREAS,** in order to achieve parity, legislation and funding for USDA programs and services should use Tribal demographic data and statistics (see attached USET Resolution No. 2011:43) and directly fund Tribal governments at the same level as states and counties for the delivery of programs

specified in the titles listed in the 2013 Farm Bill including, but not limited to, food and agriculture, conservation, nutrition, health and education programs; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Farm Bill should provide opportunity to Indian Country through Tribal support and incentive programs, as well as the establishment of a statutory requirement for the USDA to focus the provision of all USDA services and programs to Substantially Underserved Trust Areas; and

WHEREAS, program consistency and additional funding would help to ensure Tribal governments have the ability to establish long-term plans and goals for their communities, through Tribal-specific programs; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

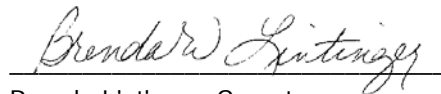
RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the United States Congress to fulfill its federal trust responsibility to Indian Country in the 2013 Farm Bill; and incorporate parity, opportunity and consistency into the 2013 Farm Bill to encourage and support continued participation, development, and progress in Indian Country.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Niagara Falls, NY, on Friday, May 17, 2013.



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214
(P): 615-872-7900 • (F): 615-872-7417

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.