



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### **USET Resolution No. 2015:005**

## **REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO PROVIDE OPERATOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FUNDING TO TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- 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) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provide funding for training and technical assistance for drinking water and wastewater treatment system operators and facilities for a period of 12 to 18 months; and
- WHEREAS,** such technical assistance and training is utilized by operators and facilities to build asset management skills, develop new procedures and regulations, and to provide continuing education units in order to maintain certification/licensing; and
- WHEREAS,** USDA and EPA provide funding on a nationwide basis for training and technical assistance through a competitive grant process without a set-aside of funds for Tribes and Tribal organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** funding recipients outside of Indian Country do not possess an understanding of Tribal sovereignty, culture, and priorities; and
- WHEREAS,** due to the short project period to provide said service there is no impetus to provide this service in a manner which takes into consideration the unique status of Tribes, as the grantee providing the training and technical assistance may not receive funding for the next grant cycle; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal organizations such as USET and Inter Tribal Council of Arizona which currently offer technical assistance and training have worked closely with their member Tribes to gain trust, and understand the unique status of Tribes, yet are unable to provide such service on a national scale to date; 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** the USET Board of Directors hereby requests that the United States Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency set aside a portion of their technical assistance and

training grant funds for Tribal organizations to provide this service to their member Tribes; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors further requests that such funding be provided for multiple years so viable programs can be maintained by Tribal-led organizations; and, be it further

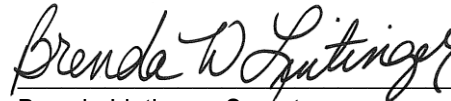
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors makes this request with the understanding that no previously designated Tribal program funding will be used for this purpose.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY on Thursday, December 4, 2014.



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



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

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*