SUPPORT FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS TO REQUEST STUDIES CONCERNING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE IN TRIBAL NATIONS

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, little academic information exists concerning homeland security and emergency management in Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, federal policy-makers and Tribal leaders need quality information to help shape funding and policy regarding Tribal emergency response; and

WHEREAS, quality information about the challenges of disaster recovery and response in Indian Country will help direct federal policies to create essential resources and services for Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, some specific recommendations and changes are needed to improve the Stafford Act and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) implementation of programs in Indian Country to produce more effective disaster planning, preparedness, and capacity building; 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 requests the Administration and United States Congress to commission studies from the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Research Service to examine disaster preparedness and response in Indian Country and share information among federal agencies and Tribal Nations to better understand the unmet needs of Tribal communities when disaster strike.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 12, 2015.

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

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