WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and

WHEREAS, the United States has a trust responsibility to Tribal Nations that is confirmed through various treaties and executive orders; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding for Tribal governmental services, energy, justice, the protection of natural resources and environmental programs is essential to the health, social and economic wellbeing of Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is in the process of formulating the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget for submission to the United States Department of Interior; and

WHEREAS, through regional consultation, Tribal Nations are afforded the opportunity to determine the regional priority needs to be reflected in the regional BIA budget process; and

WHEREAS, the USET SPF Tribal Nations have identified Tribal priorities for inclusion in the FY 2020 BIA Eastern Region testimony based on Tribal feedback; 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 SPF Board of Directors determines that the preferred priorities and related percentage increase allocations for Fiscal Year 2020 Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Region will be as follows:

1) Social Services at 21 percent of the 5 percent funding increase;
2) Indian Child Welfare Act at 27 percent of the 5 percent funding increase;
3) Aid to Tribal Government at 14 percent of the 5 percent funding increase;
4) Tribal Courts at 14 percent of the 5 percent funding increase;
5) Road Maintenance at 9 percent of the 5 percent funding increase;
6) Scholarships and Adult Education at 9 percent of the 5 percent funding increase;
7) Criminal Investigations & Police Services at 8 percent of the 5 percent funding increase;
8) Housing Program at 4 percent of the 5 percent funding increase;
9) Job Placement & Training Grants at 4 percent of the 5 percent funding increase;
10) Fire Protection at 4 percent of the 5 percent funding increase; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET SPF Board of Directors respectfully requests that the Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Regional Office support, incorporate and advance the identified funding priorities in the Fiscal Year 2020 regional budget submission.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 8, 2018.

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Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President  Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes  United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund  Sovereignty Protection Fund