URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO FUND TRIBAL NATIONS DIRECTLY AND ESTABLISH PARITY IN GRANT FUNDING

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 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the funding agency for all grant funding allocated and authorized by Congress to support the National Preparedness Goal; and

WHEREAS, DHS allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to dictate competitive grant processes and procedures in such a way that funding for Tribal emergency management programmatic support remains largely allocated directly to and controlled by states; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Nations and Tribal emergency management organizations have limited access to direct funding from the DHS, as the current funding mechanisms require Tribal Nations and their emergency management organizations to seek funds through state governments; and

WHEREAS, current emergency management funding mechanisms and grant eligibility guidelines disregard Tribal sovereignty and self-determination and are not consistent with FEMA Tribal Policy, FP 305-111-1, that declares “Tribal governments are not political subdivisions of states, but are to be recognized by the United States as distinct sovereigns”; and

WHEREAS, there are glaring funding disparities and eligibility restrictions for Tribal Nations, as compared to states, across an array of DHS grant programs, to include, but not limited to: Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, Pre-disaster Mitigation Grants, Preparedness Grants, Assistance to Firefighters Grants and Emergency Management Performance Grants and the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, DHS must work to identify and eliminate both procedural and current eligibility impediments by working directly with Tribal governments to facilitate greater access to Homeland Security grant programs; and

WHEREAS, DHS must ensure that its funding allocation methodology addresses the stark funding disparities between Tribal Nations and states by providing equitable and baseline funding to Tribal Nations, eliminating competitive grant cycles, and advocating for contracting and
compacting authorities similar to the Indian self-determination programs administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service; 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 calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to work with Tribal Nations to identify and eliminate both procedural and current eligibility impediments to working directly with Tribal governments; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors requests that the Department of Homeland Security offer a full complement of agency programs to Tribal Nations, as well as provide greater access and equitable baseline funding across those agency programs; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to reaffirm its commitment to building a strong and lasting partnership with Tribal Nations by directly funding Tribal Nations to build, sustain, and improve their capabilities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF IMPACT Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, DC on February, 7th 2018

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

Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund

Because there is Strength in Unity