



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2018 SPF:015

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

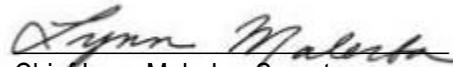
RESOLVED the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to reaffirm its commitment to building a strong and lasting partnership with Tribal Nations by directly funding Tribal Nations to build, sustain, and improve their capabilities to prepare for, protect against, respond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