WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes is an inter-tribal Council composed of seventeen federally recognized tribes in the Eastern United States; and

WHEREAS, one of the principle goals of the organization is to improve the health status of Indian people; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors is aware of the new requirements for eligibility for Indian Health Services as published in the Federal Register, September 16, 1987; and

WHEREAS, the member tribes are extremely concerned about the potential negative impact of these new regulations with regard to increased demands on health systems and the denial of services to currently eligible individuals; and

WHEREAS, further concern exists concerning the process by which the rule was promulgated, specifically, without complete analysis by Indian Health Service and input from tribes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of United South and Eastern Tribes calls for a moratorium to be placed on the implementation of the eligibility regulations until such a time that an in-depth analysis of the impact of these regulations can be completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Indian Health Service initiate an ad hoc committee be formed with representation from both Indian Health Service and tribal groups to prepare the analysis that will address, at a minimum, the following issues: coverage of Indian people; implications with regard to RAM, SURAM, and ARAM issues; and the questions of sovereignty and the rights of tribes to determine its membership; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the results of this analysis be presented to Congress and be reviewed by appropriate committees in open session, and that the analysis will be used in the formation of revised eligibility requirements, if needed.

CERTIFICATION

The above resolution was duly passed at the Board of Directors meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, D.C.; February 16-18, 1988.

Joel M. Frank, President
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Harold Tarbell, Secretary
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.