RESOLUTION NO. 94-01-DC

REQUEST TRIBAL GOVERNING BODY CONSENT BEFORE WATERSHEDS ARE DESIGNATED AFFECTING INDIAN LANDS AND EQUAL FUNDING WITH THE STATES

WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-one (21) federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET, Inc. Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Committee) is acting to merge S.1114 and S.1304 on Clean Water and Wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the provisions in S.1114 and S.1304 would seemingly authorize State governors to designate watersheds within the boundaries of Indian Reservations; and

WHEREAS, this is contrary to the Federal Government and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Policy of government-to-government relationships with the tribes; and

WHEREAS, USET understands Committee staff has prepared amendments which would require the consent of the Tribal governing body prior to any such designation; and

WHEREAS, EPA has always underfunded Tribes, yet supports the Tribe in a government-to-government relationship; and

WHEREAS, Tribes are expected and encouraged to assume and administer EPA programs without proper funding; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has the opportunity to correct this funding problem and start to place Tribes on an equal funding level with the States.

"Because there is strength in Unity"
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USET, Inc. Board of Directors do hereby request the Committee to pass amendments requiring prior Tribal governing body consent before watersheds are designated affecting Indian Lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USET, Inc. Board of Directors further request the Committee to pass amendments increasing funding to the Tribes on an equal basis with the States.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Washington Impact Week meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, D.C. on February 22, 1994.

Eddie L. Tullis, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Keller George, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.