

#### Resolution No. 97:58

#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM DOJ/BIA

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by USET, Inc. Board of Directors officially represents the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS, President Clinton, in the historic Executive Order, has reinforced the federal policy supporting self-determination for Indian tribes and has directed federal agencies to deal with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to the Presidential Executive Order, the Department of Justice has openly committed itself to strengthening and assisting Indian tribal governments in their development and to promoting Indian self-governance through the adoption of the "Department of Justice Policy on Indian Sovereignty and Government-to-Government Relations with Indian Tribes"; and
- WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Department of Justice to consult with tribal governments concerning law enforcement priorities, to defend the lawful exercise of tribal governmental powers, and to assist Indian tribes in the development of their law enforcement systems, tribal courts, and traditional justice systems; therefore be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., request from the Department of Justice a Program Proposal and from the Bureau of Indian Affairs an Impact Statement concerning the proposed transfer of responsibility for the administration of tribal law enforcement and tribal justice functions from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Department of Justice, by the 1997 Annual USET meeting.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual Board of Directors meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary



Resolution No. USET 97:59

## TRIBAL AMENDMENTS TO THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1996

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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 USET Board of Directors is dedicated and committed to the needs of its tribes and members to the goal of preserving the sovereignty, inherent rights, integrity, and stability of our Indian children and families; and,
- WHEREAS, on August 22, 1996 President Clinton signed into law the *Personal Responsibility* and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 P.L. 104-193, also known as the "welfare reform" law; this law authorizes the US Department of Health and Human Services to provide greater authority to states through block grants for "Temporary Assistance to Needy Families" and further authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to provide direct funding to Tribal governments to operate Temporary Assistance to Needy Families [TANF] programs; and,
- WHEREAS, the implementation process of the law to date has revealed that tribes lack the flexibility and access to resources needed to successfully implement the TANF and other welfare reform programs; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., hereby informs the United States Congress that the enactment of the following amendments to P.L.104-193 are necessary to successfully implement the welfare reform programs:
  - o <u>Tribal Access to State Funding Sources</u> Ensuring Tribal access to funding equivalent to all funds available to states, including supplemental funding, contingency funds, and bonuses, and make exemptions and other options available to states, available to tribes as well;
  - o <u>Direct Funding for Start-up & Administrative Costs</u> Ensuring adequate funding to the tribes for the development of Tribal Management Information Systems (MIS) to meet data collection and reporting requirements and for the administration of case management activities for TANF programs;
  - o <u>Quality & Accountability Assurance Review</u> Mandate that the DHHS Secretary conduct research on the Tribal TANF programs as well as state programs, including information on potential benefits, effects, and costs of operating different TANF programs.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary



Resolution No. USET 97:60

#### SUPPORT OF THE CLOSE-UP FOUNDATION

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- **WHEREAS**, the actions taken by the USET 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 Close Up Foundation (a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization) has been dedicated to providing a unique learning experience for American Indian students for almost twenty-five years; and
- **WHEREAS**, the Close Up Foundation's program reaches out to under served constituencies to teach them their rights and responsibilities as citizens in a participatory democracy; and
- WHEREAS, the Close Up Program offers high school students direct access to public policy decision makers and the opportunity to interact with their peers from throughout the country; and
- WHEREAS, the program has proven to enhance knowledge and skills necessary to promote local civic awareness and involvement; and
- WHEREAS, American Indian students have identified this program as one of the most effective for social and political development and growth; and
- WHEREAS, the United States Congress, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has demonstrated its commitment to the Close Up Foundation's government studies program in Washington, D.C. for American Indians; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED,** that United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. pledge their support for the Close Up Program and the opportunity it provides for American Indians; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. calls on all its members to take necessary action to support full participation by eligible American Indian students in the Close Up Program; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.call upon its members to encourage ongoing financial support from the tribe for the Close Up Foundation's programs to ensure maximum participation by American Indian students; and be it
- **RESOLVED**, that United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. does hereby proclaim its strong support for the Close Up Foundation's program for American Indians, and pledge to encourage all of its members actions necessary to demonstrate this support to ensure participation by American Indian students.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annua	al meeting	, at which	a quorum	was	present
in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21,1997.	_				

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary



#### Resolution No. USET 97:61

### APPOINTMENT OF REGIONAL DELEGATES AND A BIA LIAISON

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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, Congress is currently considering, and is expected to consider in the future, numerous legislative initiatives pertaining to taxation and other issues of interest and concern to Indian nations; and
- WHEREAS, the President of USET and other USET leaders have been diligently communicating the views of USET to Congress with respect to a variety of tax and non-tax issues; and
- WHEREAS, the ability of USET and of individual Indian nations to influence the actions of Congress depends, in part, upon the coordinated efforts of tribal governments and upon those Executive Agencies charged with the responsibility of working with tribal governments; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., shall appoint a delegate from four geographic regions within USET to whom the Board and other USET leaders shall communicate information and directives pertaining to proposed legislation and other matters of interest, which such regional delegates shall then disseminate to the USET members within their region; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., shall formally request that the Eastern Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs appoint a USET liaison for purposes of coordinating with USET appropriate responses to legislative initiatives and other issues of importance.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright Secretary



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Resolution No. USET 97:62

#### STATE EFFORTS TO TAX INDIAN NATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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 states are without power to tax Indian nations or their members and all such attempts at taxation constitute violations of tribal sovereignty, international law, treaties and the U.S. Constitution; and
- WHEREAS, many state governments have recently attempted to illegally impose their tax laws on some of the member tribes of USET and on individual American Indians who belong to those tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the unlawful attempts by state governments to tax Indian tribes and American Indians have provoked numerous confrontations leading to bodily injury and destruction of property; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., all state governments are urged to respect the sovereignty of Indian nations and to cease all efforts to impose their tax laws and regulations on tribal governments and their members; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., all members of USET are urged to vigorously resist all efforts by state or local governments to tax a tribal government or the American Indians who belong to such tribe; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., all state governments are urged to:
  (a) refrain from provoking confrontations—political, legal or otherwise—with Indian nations over the subject of taxes, and (b) resolve their differences with tribal governments on all issues, including taxes, through mediation and negotiation, on a government-to-government basis.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary



## United South and Eastern Tribes, inc.

#### Resolution No. USET 97:63

#### PROPOSED TAX ON INDIAN GAMING AND TRIBAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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, Congressman Solomon (R-N.Y.) has introduced a bill, HR 325, which would treat Indian governmental gaming revenue as "unrelated business income," thereby subjecting such revenue to a 34% corporate income tax; and
- WHEREAS, Congressman Hutchinson (R-Ark.) has introduced a bill, HR 1554, which would subject to income taxation all revenue earned by Indian nations from any commercial activity; and
- WHEREAS, the imposition of a federal income tax on revenues from tribal gaming and other commercial activities would violate the sovereignty of Indian nations, abrogate international law and outstanding treaties, breach the U.S. Constitution, impair the ability of Indian nations to discharge their governmental responsibilities, and defeat the congressional objective of tribal self-sufficiency, as clearly articulated in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and other federal legislation; and
- WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of USET is to preserve and safeguard the sovereignty, independence and treaty rights of all Indian nations and their members; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., unalterably opposes HR 325 and HR 1554 and urges the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to reject this proposed legislation and all other attempts to use the federal taxing power in derogation of tribal sovereignty; and be it furter
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., directs each of its member nations to communicate their opposition to HR 325 and HR 1554 to the elected officials representing the states where their reservations and territories are located; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., directs the Taxation Committee to coordinate opposition to HR 325 and HR 1554 with other organizations likewise fighting to defeat these pernicious legislative proposals, such as the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.

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

Beverly Wright, Secretary

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"



## United South and Eastern Tribes, inc.

Resolution No. USET 97:64

#### JOHNSON O'MALLEY

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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 Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program provides assistance to Indian Tribes and public schools to meet the unique academic and culturally related academic needs of their American Indian students; and
- WHEREAS, the JOM program is administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) through contracts with tribes, tribal organizations, public school districts and state departments; and
- WHEREAS, JOM funding for said contracts is based on the number of Indian students in all public schools and that this student count has consistently increased since 1987; and
- WHEREAS, the student count has been frozen at the 1995 level and funds have not been increased to meet the number of new eligible American Indian Students; and
- WHEREAS, the number of federally recognized tribes has increased since 1995 and these tribes are being deprived of the right to participate in the JOM program; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. DEMANDS that these caps be lifted to allow both participation of the newly recognized federal tribes in the JOM program and that the amount of funding for JOM reflect the increases in the number of eligible American Indian students.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21,1997.

Keller George, President /

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary



Resolution No. USET 97:65

#### SUPPORT OF THE FAMILY AND CHILD EDUCATION PROGRAM

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- **WHEREAS**, the actions taken by the USET 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, United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. recognizes the need for the Family and Child Education (F.A.C.E.) Program for Indian children, and
- WHEREAS, there are American Indian children that are not receiving the appropriate preparation for education due to their socio-economic conditions, and
- **WHEREAS**, the Family and Child Education Program will significantly enhance the opportunities of success for our Indian children, and
- **WHEREAS**, the Family and Child Education Program will service children ages birth to five years old through a partnership with BIA schools; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. demands additional allocation of funds from the BIA to meet the needs of Family and Child Education.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21,1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BYLAWS

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. ("USET") Community and Economic Development Committee ("Committee") is to study and make recommendations to the full USET Board of Directors in relation to Planning and Development of Community and Economic issues and promote improved self-sufficient reservation economies and therefore a better life for Indian people.

### STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1. Promote the understanding and importance of community planning and economic development.
- 2. Provide a common understanding of community and economic issues through training.
- 3. Promote the exchange of information, ideas and commerce through the use of technology.
- 4. Establish political awareness of tribal community and economic development issues through lobbying efforts in Washington, DC
- 5. Promote networking among tribal and non-tribal enterprises.
- 6. Assist USET tribes in identifying potential sources of funding to promote Community and Economic development.
- 7. Assist USET tribes with obtaining legislative information regarding Community and Economic development.

## ARTICLE I. OFFICERS

#### **SECTION 1. GENERAL**

Officers of the Committee shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and a Secretary.



Resolution No. USET 97:66

## RESOLUTIONS TO ACCEPT AND ADOPT THE BYLAWS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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 United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., has established a committee to study and advise the Board of Directors on Community and Economic Development issues; and
- WHEREAS, the Committee has met and developed organizational and operational bylaws; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., does hereby approve the Bylaws of the Community and Economic Development Committee as developed on May 20, 1997.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary



Resolution No. USET 97:67

#### ENDORSEMENT OF THE NASHVILLE AREA OFFICE OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE FY99 CORE BUDGET FORMULATION TEAM AND REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF \$75M FOR ISDQUE

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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 budget appropriation for the Indian Health Service (IHS) supports tribal programs, services, functions and activities; and
- WHEREAS, the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) calls for the IHS to consult the tribes (IHS customers) in the formulation of the budget; and
- WHEREAS, in compliance with GPRA requirements the (NAO/IHS) has been directed to form a team (FY99 Core Budget Formulation Team) of Tribal Representatives to advocate on behalf of USET member tribes in development of the FY99 IHS Budget including the addition of \$75M for ISDQue funds; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., endorses Dr. Paula Butler, Eastern Band of Cherokees Indians; Meg Parsons, Oneida Indian Nation of New York; Don Novak, Seminole Tribe of Florida; Arlene Mack, Poarch Band of Creek Indians; Susan Hammond, Penobscot Indian Nation; Elizabeth Martin, Passamaquoddy Indian Township; and Barbara Namias, North American Indian Center of Boston, Inc. as members of the NAO/IHS FY99 Core Budget Formulation Team; and, finally be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., recommends for the inclusion of \$75M for ISDQue funds in the FY99 IHS Budget.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BYLAWS

# ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

The power to alter, amend or repeal these Committee Bylaws shall be vested in the Committee. Such action may be taken at a regular or special meeting.



Resolution No. USET 97:68

#### NAO REDESIGN/TRIBAL MODEL

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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 USET Board passed resolution 97:45 mandating that the redesign process address functions identified as the Tribal Model; and
- WHEREAS, assumption number five (#5) of the Tribal Model prohibits actions that will result in a reduced level of services provided at the local Indian Health Service/Tribal/Urbans (I/T/U) level; and
- WHEREAS, the elimination of IPA/MOA's from the USET member tribes will have a negative impact at the I/T/U level; and
- WHEREAS, Indian Health Service (IHS) has been mandated by Congress to downsize with savings to be placed at the local I/T/U level; and
- WHEREAS, the IHDT has mandated the IHS to explore alternative ways of doing business; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., mandates actions to be initiated immediately to downsize the Nashville Area Office (NAO) to the \$4.4M operational level with the balance of funds being made available for tribal shares distribution; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that the NAO Director present redesign plans, which may reduce services at the local I/T/U level, to the USET Board for approval prior to implementation; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that the NAO Director present full disclosure of the Area Budget (\$10.4M) and provide monthly updates, keeping the USET Board appraised of downsizing efforts.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Semi-Annual meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, Louisiana on Wednesday, May 21, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary



Resolution No. 97:69

#### AUTHORIZATION TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT PROPOSALS/CONTRACTS/GRANTS FOR AN EPIDEMIOLOGY PROJECT

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) 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, USET is firmly committed to the goal of elevating the health status of Indian people to the highest level possible; and
- WHEREAS, USET realizes a need for an Epidemiologist and Statistician to effectively use health data in the development of health promotion and disease prevention programs; and
- WHEREAS, effective use of health data will enable the Nashville Area Indian Health Service (NAO/IHS) to respond to the Government Performance and Results Act and secure funding necessary to support tribal health programs; and
- WHEREAS, alternate funding sources must be sought to support the Epidemiology Project; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., directs the Executive Director to prepare and submit a proposal(s) requesting funding for the Epidemiology Project; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that this proposal(s) be submitted to the various public/private funding agencies that may support the Epidemiology Project.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the Board of Directors meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA on May 21, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright Secretary



#### Resolution No. USET 97:70

### **REJECTION OF NAO PRESENTATION (JULY 30, 1997)**

- **WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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 USET Board passed resolutions 97:45 and 97:68 mandating that the redesign process address functions identified as the Tribal Model; and
- WHEREAS, the Nashville Area Office (NAO) Director has been directed to present redesign plans, which may reduce services at the local I/T/U level, to the USET Board for approval prior to implementation; now, therefore be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the USET Board rejects the redesign plan presented by the NAO Director in Nashville, Tennessee on July 30, 1997.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Executive Committee meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Nashville, TN, on Thursday, July 31, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary



#### Resolution No. USET 97:71

# RECONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996 (NAHASDA)

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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 Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-330, hereafter referred to as NAHASDA) was enacted during the last moments of the 1996 Congressional session and the effective date of the Act is October 1, 1998; and
- WHEREAS, broad and significant changes to the manner in which the Federal government provides housing to Native Americans are contemplated by this Act; and
- WHEREAS, the Department has, through a course of conduct in the Negotiated Rulemaking process, evidenced a unwillingness to act in a manner consistent with the assurances made through a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Charter signed by Secretary Cuomo, the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Organizational Protocols signed by Dominic Nessi acting as the Designated Federal Official on behalf of the Department, or intents stated in a letter dated February 13, 1997, from Secretary Cuomo and addressed to the Chairman of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, including instances such as:
  - the Department unilaterally changed regulatory language negotiated and agreed to by Tribal and Department representatives despite expressed language contained in the Protocols that provides, "The Secretary agrees to use the Committee's preliminary report and proposed regulations as the basis of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)";
  - 2) no opportunity was provided to Tribal representatives to comment on the unilateral changes to the NPRM prior to their publication as is expressly provided for in the Protocols;
  - 3) key decision makers responsible for the changes to the NPRM were not made available to participate in the Negotiated Rulemaking Process thereby preempting a good faith effort as required by the Charter and Protocols to negotiate regulatory language acceptable to Tribal representatives and the Department; and
- WHEREAS, the time remaining to publish a final rule is not sufficient to allow meaningful tribal input; and
- WHEREAS, no final rule has been published to date and without the guidance and requirements of a final rule tribal housing programs can not prepare appropriate applications in a timely manner so that they may fully participate in the program; and
- WHEREAS, the earliest date that a final rule can take effect will be *on or after* October 1, 1997 (the effective date of NAHASDA); and

#### (USET 97:71)

## RECONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996 (NAHASDA)

- WHEREAS, the Directorship of Native American Programs is currently vacant at a time when a central organizing voice that can assure consistent and equal implementation across the country is needed; and
- WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department refuses to meet, despite the unique government-to-government relationship that exists between the Tribes and the United States, with tribal leaders to discuss these and other concerns and to discuss ways to assure that the new program will be successful; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. does hereby respectfully and urgently request that the Congress of the United States, through the legislative process, delay the effective date of NAHASDA for one year and thereby continue addressing the housing needs of Indian people through the **familiar** provisions and auspices of the program and laws superseded by NAHASDA, except that if possible the NAHASDA funding allocation formula should be utilized in the interim for allocation of FY 98 funds; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. does hereby respectfully request that the appropriate Committee(s) of the Congress of the United States conduct hearing to determine the full effects of NAHASDA on Indian Housing Programs and the measures needed to assure the success of the new program.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Executive Committee Meeting, at which a quorum was present via conference call on Monday, August 18, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BYLAWS

#### SECTION 2. ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Officers of the Committee shall be elected by its membership at its Annual meeting and shall serve for terms of two years and until their successors are elected. A nominee for an officer's position must be a member of the Committee.

#### **SECTION 3. ELECTION PROCEDURES**

Only one committee member from each Tribe in attendance may vote in committee elections.

### **SECTION 4. AUTOMATIC REMOVAL**

If a Chairperson or Vice Chairperson misses two consecutive meetings that officer may be removed from office by majority vote of the Committee.

If the Secretary notifies the Chairperson responsible for chairing the next upcoming Committee meeting in advance of said meeting that he or she will be unable to attend the meeting, the Chairperson may appoint a Secretary Pro Tempore to serve in the Secretary's place. If the Secretary fails to provide notification and fails to appear at the Committee meeting, a vacancy shall be declared.

#### **SECTION 5. REMOVAL**

Any officer of the Committee may be removed by majority vote of the Committee if the officer has conducted himself or herself in a manner that would bring discredit upon the Committee or USET, Inc.

#### **SECTION 6. VACANCIES**

Any vacancy occurring in the office of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Secretary shall be filled by election at the next meeting of the Committee. The person elected to fill such vacancy shall serve until the next regular election.

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BYLAWS

#### ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall be comprised of a designated representative and/or one alternate from each USET member Tribe. A Committee member shall serve at the discretion of the Tribe he/she represents.

## ARTICLE III. VOTING

Each USET Tribe represented on the Committee shall have one vote. The act of the majority of the Committee members present at the meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Committee.

# ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS AND QUORUM

The Committee's regular meetings shall occur at the same time as the USET Board of Directors meetings. Special meetings may be called as determined necessary by the Committee. A quorum of the Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members.

## ARTICLE V. RULES AND PROCEDURES

The rules contained in <u>Robert's Rules of Order</u>, <u>Revised</u> shall govern the meetings of the Committee in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of USET or with these Committee Bylaws.