



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2000:90

CREATING A TRIBAL LIAISON POSITION/DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE NEW OFFICE ON DISABILITY POLICY, EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FOR INDIAN COUNTRY

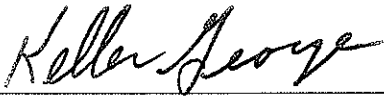
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have the highest incident of disabling conditions of any culturally diverse group, one in three or 26%; and
- WHEREAS,** Vocation Rehabilitation services have been established during creation of the American Indian Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Programs (referred to as the Section 121 Projects) but the number is limited in relationship to the number of AI/AN tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** some AI/AN tribes and urban communities have little to no economic development and high unemployment rates; and
- WHEREAS,** a coordinated effort is needed to create more jobs for all AI/AN people, particularly those with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** on February 9, 2000, the establishment of a new Office on Disability Policy, Evaluation and Technical Assistance through the Department of Labor was announced as a result of recent recommendations by the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities which states "...this new office will provide leadership in helping people with disabilities enter, reenter and remain in the workforce.."; and
- WHEREAS,** due to tribal sovereignty and cultural differences the needs of Indian country are diverse and special emphasis and unique consideration has to exist within this new office; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the Office on Disability Policy, Evaluation and Technical Assistance within the Department of Labor is just being developed and establishing a Tribal Liaison position/department within this new office would effectively address and coordinate the employment needs of AI/AN people; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors, on behalf of AI/AN people with disabilities and elders, assert the need for creating a Tribal Liaison position/department to be staffed with an AI/AN person with a background in disability issues who will represent all AI/AN tribes and address/advance AI/AN disability issues .

"Because there is strength in Unity"

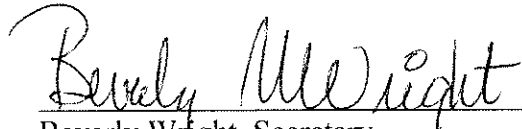
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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Houston, TX Thursday, June 8, 2000.



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



Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.