



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.


USET Resolution No. 2001:01

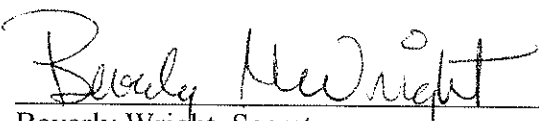
### REQUEST TO AMEND P.L. 93-288 (STAFFORD ACT) TO GIVE AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS THE SAME STATUS AS THE STATES, POSSESSIONS, AND OTHER TRUST TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES

- 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 and Alaska Native Tribal governments hold a unique status in the United States with the rights and benefits of sovereign nations; and
- WHEREAS,** in recognition of the historic relationship between the United States and American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has indicated support for a government-to-government relationship with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS,** the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288 *as amended* (Stafford Act) includes Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Tribal governments in the definition of "Local Governments"; and
- WHEREAS,** the Stafford Act includes the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the definition of a "State" and subject to the same provisions afforded a state under the Stafford Act; and
- WHEREAS,** in recognition of the trust relationship between the Federal Government and American Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives, Indian Tribal Governments and Alaska Native Tribal governments should be afforded the same status as other trust territories, possessions, and the states; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that the United States Congress amend the Stafford Act to give American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments at a minimum the same status as the states, possessions, and other trust territories of the United States; be it further
- RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors supports amending the Stafford Act and working with FEMA to recognize the trust responsibility and the unique government-to-government relationship that exists between American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal governments, affording them the highest recognition of a government-to-government relationship.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Verona, NY on Thursday, November 2, 2000.

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

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

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*