



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2001:26

EPA & MOTHER EARTH

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, the environment of those geographic areas of America where Indian Tribes have been exterminated and those places in Eastern and Southern United States where the USET Tribal lands and waters are located, are polluted by old continuing land use and industrial practices; and

WHEREAS, the EPA and States have had a relationship since 1970; and

WHEREAS, there are 567 Tribal Governments in the United States; and

WHEREAS, since the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had been created in 1970 and until the 1984 Indian Policy was adopted within the Agency, a very limited to no relationship existed between Tribes and EPA; and

WHEREAS, upon implementation of the Indian Policy in 1994, and only since that time have the tribes been able to receive environmental support resources from the agency; and,

WHEREAS, the budget that sustains the limited environmental funding and resources of the Tribes and the EPA Indian Program support has not been adequate in meeting the demand of the environmental concerns of the Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the EPA employee ratio in meeting the technical and administrative support of the agency in carrying-out their responsibilities in protecting the environment of the Tribal Governments of USET and other areas within Indian Country is lacking; and

WHEREAS, the budgets over the past few years reflect minimal increases for Tribal environmental activities, is still not adequate in supporting activities for environmental and health conditions of our tribes in Indian Country; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the USET Board of Directors shall contact the Congressional Leaders, White House and Environmental Protection Agency of the conditions in Indian Country that budget cuts by add-ons and the assumption of projects that have not been appropriated resources are budget cuts to the agency, the environment and the Tribes; be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors shall make the United States aware that environmental resource cutbacks in any form places for any program or media directly and indirectly places a proportionate and terminal condition on future populations and especially ALL OF OUR CHILDREN and GRANDCHILDREN, the future; be it further

“Because there is strength in Unity”