TEA-21/IRR NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of 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 construction of roads on or near an American Indian Reservation or Tribal lands and dependent Indian communities has the potential to affect Tribal cultural resources in a Tribe’s ancestral geographic area; and

WHEREAS, there are significant monies appropriated by the US Department of Transportation and Federal Highways Administration for the purposes of planning, obligations, review, and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as these relate to road construction and historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, the negotiated rulemaking process relating to the Transportation Efficiency Act and the Indian Reservation Roads Program (TEA-21/IRR) has not addressed or included rulemaking for NEPA or NHPA compliance to date; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors requests that negotiated rulemaking on TEA-21/IRR be expanded to include historic preservation compliance issues and funding, as they relate to planning, review, and protection of cultural resources.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 24, 2001.

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

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

"Because there is strength in Unity"