



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 2002:013

**RESPONSE TO MCCALED'S PROPOSAL FOR INDIAN ROADS RESERVATION
(IRR) FUNDING**

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represents the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need for the development of a single relative need formula to allocate scarce Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) dollars through the negotiated rulemaking process; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted TEA 21 and directed the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee mandating the development of a new funding distribution formula; and

WHEREAS, the Rulemaking Committee's charge includes the need to address the diverse needs of small, medium, and large tribes as mandated by Congress; and

WHEREAS, existing and differing policies, levels of concern, and productivity among the various Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Regions, make it difficult to change the current formula to make it fair and equitable; and

WHEREAS, the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, Neil McCaleb, has decided to arbitrarily adopt a compromise funding formula completely circumventing the TEA-21 rulemaking process and the role tribal committee members played in that process; and

WHEREAS, the so-called "compromise" formula, is in fact the status quo formula and will perpetuate the inequitable distributions which congress intended to correct through the rulemaking process; and

WHEREAS, the fostering of this relationship is threatened by the unilateral substitute of the BIA proposal, which ignores tribal input including the need for standards, data collection and analysis, and other factors proposed for a combined formula developed by the BIA; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors that the member tribes of USET strongly object to the unilateral actions by the Assistant Secretary; and, therefore be it further


RESOLVED that rather than imposing a non-negotiated, unilateral funding distribution formula, the USET Board of Directors strongly endorses the consensus reached by the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee to publish the two (2) funding distribution formulas for public comments and to continue with the mandated Negotiated Rulemaking process.

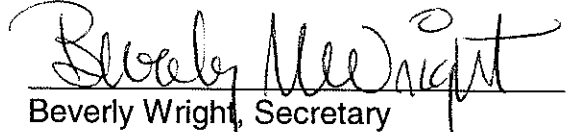
"Because there is strength in Unity"

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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Miami, FL on Thursday, October 25, 2001.


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


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