USET Resolution No. 2002: 064

TRIBAL CONSULTATION REGARDING THE SELECTION OF THE
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE DIRECTOR

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 represent the intentions of each
member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes’
leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) holds the highest direct federal
responsibility for the health status of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) people; and

WHEREAS, the IHS is one of two major agencies within the United States government, whose sole
focus is to serve federally-recognized AI/AN tribal governments, the other being the
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); and

WHEREAS, the Director of the IHS is the lead advocate for AI/AN people regarding appropriations and
provision of services to fulfill the mission of the IHS and the person in this position is key to
the success of individual tribal health care delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, the USET Board of Directors is keenly aware that the Senate confirmed term of the current
IHS Director is scheduled to expire soon; and

WHEREAS, the USET Board of Directors respects the right of the Bush/Cheney Administration and
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary, Tommy Thompson to
review all qualified applicants, including the current IHS Director and make a selection for
the Director of the Indian Health Service upon term expiration; and

WHEREAS, the USET Board of Directors would like to see the appointment of an individual that
embodies qualities to which tribes have been accustomed to, including, adherence to a
solid tribal consultation and participation policy, staunch advocacy for tribal governments
in the areas of appropriation and Indian health legislation, strong belief and support of the
Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), and most importantly a
firm commitment to the Federal Trust Responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the DHHS has a Tribal Consultation and Participation policy in place to allow for
meaningful tribal input regarding decisions that will directly affect tribal governments and
the selection of an IHS Director will directly affect tribal governments across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the USET Board of Directors would like the opportunity to appoint a tribal leader to sit on
the Bush/Cheney Administration selection committee and assist in making the selection of
the candidate most qualified to fulfill the federal government’s trust responsibility to
provide health care services to AI/AN tribal governments and elevate the health status of
AI/AN people, to its highest possible level; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests that the Bush/Cheney
Administration allow for meaningful tribal consultation and participation in the selection
process for the next IHS Director; and, be it further

"Because there is strength in Unity"
RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors recommends the Bush/Cheney Administration involve tribal governments in the appointment of the next IHS Director by allowing the USET member tribes to appoint a tribal leader to serve on the selection committee along with federal personnel and other tribal representatives.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Washington, D.C., Thursday, January 31, 2002.

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

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