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 Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program provides assistance to Indian Tribes and public schools to meet the unique academic and culturally related academic needs of their American Indian students; and

WHEREAS, the JOM program is administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) through contracts with tribes, tribal organizations, public school districts and state departments; and

WHEREAS, JOM funding for said contracts is based on the number of Indian students in all public schools and that this student count has consistently increased since 1987; and

WHEREAS, the student count has been frozen at the 1995 level and funds have not been increased to meet the number of new eligible American Indian students; and

WHEREAS, the number of federally recognized tribes has increased since 1995 and these tribes are being deprived of the right to participate in the JOM Program; and

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors, respectfully encourage these caps be lifted to allow both participation of the newly recognized federal tribes in the JOM program and that the amount of funding for JOM reflect the increases in the number in the eligible American Indian students.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Nashville, TN, Thursday, June 13, 2002.

Keller George
President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright
Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"