



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2003:006

### TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM BUDGET

- 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 tribe's leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) mission is the responsibility for human health and environmental protection of all peoples within the external boundaries of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the EPA has provided states protection since the early 1970s and states have progressed in the development of their environmental infrastructure and programs with extraordinary support of EPA over the past 30 years; and
- WHEREAS,** EPA is responsible to 565 federally-recognized Indian Tribes, their 572 governments, and their respective reservations and trust lands in carrying out the agency's mission and statute responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** many tribes linger far behind states in environmental infrastructure and program development and tribes are subjected to the most hazardous environmental conditions over the years, and
- WHEREAS,** the EPA budget has never included the tribal assessment of the true environmental need in Indian Country, falling short in FY 2000, 2001 and 2002 by approximately \$250 Million; and
- WHEREAS,** at this time over 40% of all tribal governments do not have a Tribal Environmental Program, nor do they receive direct support from EPA; and
- WHEREAS,** EPA's full funding of Tribal Environmental Programs is desperately needed to be similar and/or equivalent to what states have received over the years; and
- WHEREAS,** that these multi-media Tribal Environmental Programs serve as basic tribal government support in protecting our families, human health, and the environment at a much lower cost than EPA can provide individual programs for every Tribal Government in Indian Country; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors requests President George W. Bush, EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman and Congress protect Indian programs and respective Tribal Environmental Program budgets through fully funding the unmet needs which have been identified for years by national and regional tribal organizations and individual Tribes.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

USET Resolution 2003:006

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Board Meeting and EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Uncasville, CT, Thursday, October 31, 2002.



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



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