



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:087

AMENDING THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT—H.R. 1166

- 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,** H.R. 1166 is intended to expand and improve the assistance provided by Small Business Development Centers to American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) by providing additional grants to such centers to be used solely to assist with outreach, development and enhancement of small businesses owned by AI/AN on Indian lands; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bill requires States receiving grants to request the advice of local tribal councils on how best to provide assistance to their members and the location of such business centers; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports the provisions in H.R. 1166 pertaining to increased grants for Small Business Development Centers to provide assistance to AI/AN entrepreneurs, but urges Congress to amend the legislation so that States are required to show that they not only have requested the advice of tribal councils regarding the services to be provided to tribal members but that they have heeded such advice in structuring their programs and will continue to consult with Indian tribes on an ongoing basis; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that Congress amend the legislation to allow tribes to apply for program grants directly without going through State governments.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting at which a quorum was present in Choctaw, MS, on Thursday, June 5, 2003.

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

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