



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2004:055

### OPPOSITION TO INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE PROPOSED CHANGES TO USER POPULATION CALCULATIONS

- 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 Indian Health Service (IHS) has proposed drastic changes to the process currently used to calculate tribal user populations in an attempt to "standardize" the process effective fiscal year 2005; and
- WHEREAS,** user population figures are used in nearly every IHS funding calculation when distributing funding to tribal governments for their use in providing health care services to their membership; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed change would dictate that IHS rely solely on data extracted from the National Patient Information Reporting System (NPIRS) to calculate user populations for individual tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the data extracted from the NPIRS data system has been consistently challenged by at least 14 of the 24 USET member tribes for the past three years and the IHS has had to adjust their user population figures based upon these challenges; and
- WHEREAS,** if the proposed methodology is implemented the Nashville Area will have 6 of 24 tribes reflecting zero for their user population figures and this essentially means that the Nashville Area will lose 10,954 of our 46,000 users currently which equates to a one-fifth reduction; and
- WHEREAS,** there are USET member tribes that may never have the capability of transmitting data electronically for various reasons including financial constraints, competing priorities, cost-effectiveness; and
- WHEREAS,** tribal governments are NOT mandated to provide data electronically to NPIRS and therefore, should not be penalized for not doing so when user population figures are calculated; and
- WHEREAS,** tribal consultation has not taken place regarding these proposed changes essentially placing the IHS in direct violation of Presidential Executive Order 13084; and
- WHEREAS,** by adhering to the Presidential Executive Order and conducting tribal consultation the IHS will create the opportunity to work together with tribes and identify tribal data priorities, capabilities and funding amounts required to implement the proposed changes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors opposes the proposed changes to the current methodology for calculating user population figures and requests that the IHS delay implementation of said changes until such time as adequate tribal consultation has been conducted and tribal governments located in each IHS Area have agreed to any proposed change; and, be it further

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

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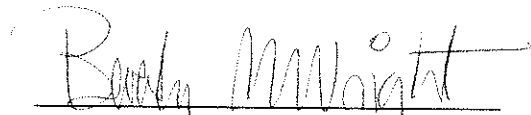
**RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors understands the need for a "standardized" system for calculating user population figures, but requests that the IHS consider formulating another "standardized" system for use by tribes that are unable to submit data electronically to NPIRS or any other data system.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 5, 2004.



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



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