REQUEST TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PAYMENT STANDARD FOR BURIAL ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USMT) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USMT 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 Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs established a policy in Fiscal Year (FY) 00 on the maximum allowable costs for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) burial assistance program; and

WHEREAS, burial costs have continued to increase over the past several years and these costs are placing undue hardship on Tribes attempting to provide burials that are culturally sensitive and appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the rise in burial costs has created a need for an increase to the standard burial assistance allowable costs; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USMT Board of Directors requests the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs to increase the maximum allowable cost for burial assistance from $2500 to $7000; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USMT Board of Directors requests that the BIA Central Office and Eastern Regional Office advocate on behalf of the Tribes in support of an increase to the BIA burial assistance program.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USMT Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, October 28, 2004.

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

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

"Because there is strength in Unity"