USET Resolution No. 2005: 052

SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN INDIAN COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL FUNDING PLAN

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 taking of America from the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) by these United States has put America's first citizens at great economic and social disadvantage in comparison to other American citizens; and

WHEREAS, the federal program dollars appropriated to fund programs for unmet needs of AI/AN is the essence of the fiduciary trust relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, study after study shows that federal funding to AI/AN is considerably less than funding to the general population on a per capita basis; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission Report, "A Quiet Crisis," identified program deficit funding of five federal departments reflecting the existence of a critical condition; and

WHEREAS, the report reflects the lack of services in healthcare and general welfare of Tribes, despite the fact that prisoners receive substantially more healthcare dollars per capita than AI/AN; and

WHEREAS, the report shows that over the past two decades, inflation has dramatically reduced the value of flat federal funding for vital Tribal programs and is dramatically undermining the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and the United States; and

WHEREAS, USET is very concerned that the fiduciary trust relationship that federally recognized Tribes have with the United States is seriously compromised and irreparably damaged as a result of insufficient funding to carry out essential governmental functions on behalf of Tribes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors respectively requests the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs, the Senate Appropriations and Budget Committee, the House Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, the House Budget Committee, the Department of the Interior, and the Office of the President of the United States call for a meeting of Tribal representatives from each Bureau of Indian Affairs region and national Indian organizations, in this calendar year, to develop a Comprehensive American Indian Federal Funding Plan, based on unmet needs, notwithstanding current budget funding levels; and, be it further

RESOLVED that USET do everything possible to immediately work with the current Administration and Congress to implement an unmet needs based budget for all Indian programs, over a five year period, commencing in fiscal year 2007, to meet parity projections in fiscal year 2011.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Mashantucket, CT, Thursday, June 30, 2005.

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

Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"