REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION ON AGING TO LOWER THE AGE THRESHOLD FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

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, there are large health disparities among the American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) compared to the U.S. general population; and

WHEREAS, the average lifespan of an AI/AN living on a reservation is 57 years, which is significantly below that of the U.S. general population due to health disparities; and

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration's (SSA) threshold for program participation is 50 enrollees whom are 60 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, the 60 year old threshold prevents several AI/AN communities from fully participating in the Administration of Aging (ADA) grant programs due to the high rate of morbidity/mortality among AI/AN; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors urges the Administration on Aging (AOA) lower the age threshold for program participation to 55 years in order to allow for more AI/AN communities to participate and benefit from the programs available through the agency; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Administration and Congress to engage and consult with Tribal Governments in the development of the agency's reauthorization legislation; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors instructs the USET Executive Director to bring forth at the next USET meeting a legislative proposal to permit program participation for enrollees over 50 years of age, in this and all applicable programs.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting at which a quorum was present in Mashantucket, CT on 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"