SUPPORT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO CALL A SUMMIT BUDGET MEETING WITH CONGRESS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN INDIAN BUDGET

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 lands indigenous to American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) by the United States has put AI/AN at a great economic and social disadvantage in comparison to other American citizens; and

WHEREAS, federal program dollars appropriated to fund programs for disadvantaged AI/AN is the essence of the trust responsibility the United States has to AI/AN people; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies show that federal funding to AI/AN programs is considerably less than funding provided for the rest of the population on a per capita basis, yet it makes no difference to those who allocate funding for AI/AN needs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Civil Rights Commission report, “A Quiet Crisis”, identified program deficit funding reflecting that critical conditions exist, and

WHEREAS, human conditions of the AI/AN population are reflected in the lack of services, poverty, illness, and general welfare of AI/AN Tribes; and

WHEREAS, USET is very concerned that the trust relationship between AI/AN Tribes and the United States is seriously compromised and critically damaged as a result of insufficient funding to carry out essential governmental functions; and

WHEREAS, the only solution is to bring together the decision-makers in a government-to-government meeting between the Tribes and the United States; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors respectively requests that the President, the President of the Senate, the Senate Majority Leader, and the Speaker of the House appoint representatives and call a meeting of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, House Resources Committee and other appropriate committees with AI/AN jurisdiction; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors work with the Administration, Congress, national and regional Indian organizations in the coming months to develop a comprehensive AI/AN budget notwithstanding current budget funding levels; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Executive Director immediately begin work with the Administration and Congress to implement the budget justification for all Federal Indian Programs over a five year period commencing in fiscal year 2007 to meet parity projections in fiscal year 2011.

"Because there is strength in Unity"
CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Orlando, FL, on Thursday, October 13, 2005.

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

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