



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2006:034

SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDING INCREASE

- 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 U.S. Congress adopted amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA, P.L. 102-575) in 1992, allowing federally recognized Indian Tribes to assume responsibility for the preservation of significant historic properties on tribal lands [Sec. 101(d)(2)]; and
- WHEREAS,** the amendments also authorized funding for tribal historic preservation activities, to be included in the annual budget and appropriations for the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service (NPS); and
- WHEREAS,** the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) line item for Indian tribes historically has not been sufficiently funded to support tribal participation in the administration and implementation of the NHPA; and
- WHEREAS,** the HPF Indian Tribes line item for FY2006 exhibits a disparity in the disproportionate appropriations when compared to other HPF line items, as well as a significant decrease in funding from the FY2001 appropriation; and
- WHEREAS,** the NPS is entrusted with the administration of the HPF but has not advocated successfully for stable and adequate funding for the tribal line item; and
- WHEREAS,** the funding level for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) has remained static at the same time that the number of Tribes qualifying for 101(d)(2) status has increased exponentially resulting in a significant decrease in funding for THPO programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the average THPO grant in FY2005 from the NPS was \$46,724, versus the average grant in the first year of operation (FY1996) of \$79,875; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the U.S. Congress to support a total of at least \$12 million in Fiscal Year 2007 to assist in the development of a base of \$80,000 per Tribe with the ultimate goal of reaching parity with State Historic Preservation funding for the tribal historic preservation programs funded under the Indian Tribes line item, of the Historic Preservation Fund within the FY07 Department of the Interior Appropriations Bill.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 9, 2006.

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”