



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2006:042

POSITION ON FISCAL YEAR 2007 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS


- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc (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 represents the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** on February 6, 2006 the President released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Budget to the public; and
- WHEREAS,** the President's FY07 Budget request included \$2.2 billion in total funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which is \$52.4 million less than the FY06 enacted amounts; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Tribes have been very active in the formulation of the initial FY07 Budget for the BIA that was submitted to the Department of Interior to be included in the final version of the President's FY07 Budget Request; and
- WHEREAS,** USET provided testimony on tribal priorities and unmet needs to the BIA in order to insure that tribal budgetary concerns were heard and included in the BIA Budget; and
- WHEREAS,** there are some positive aspects included in the President's FY07 Budget Request for the BIA, which Tribes can support, but there are also many programs that are facing reductions and possible elimination that, if adopted by Congress, could prove detrimental to Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the inclusion of the following items in the President's FY07 BIA Budget Request:
- Overall increase of \$19.0 million to fully fund Contract Support Costs
 - Increases of \$4.5 million for law enforcement activities
 - Provision for \$2.0 million for Indian Energy Resource Development; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly opposes the following budgetary provisions and the administration's reasoning that these are "poor performing" or "duplicative" programs that should be reduced or eliminated:
- Total elimination of the Johnson O'Malley program in the amount of \$16 million
 - Reduction of \$962,000 to the Endangered Species Program
 - Reduction of \$1.0 million to the Noxious Weeds Program
 - Reduction of \$11 million to Welfare Assistance
 - Reduction of \$2.6 million to Road Maintenance
 - Reduction of \$1.9 million to Water Management
 - Total Elimination of the Community Fire Program in the amount of \$1.0 million
 - Reduction of the \$20 million Indian guaranteed loan program; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls on members of the United States Congress to address reductions to these vital Indian programs; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the United States Congress to work with Tribes in an effort to restore funding to these programs in the FY2007 Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Budget and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the efforts of the National Tribal organization as they put forward the appropriate needs-based budget for Indian country.

"Because there is strength in Unity"


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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Impact Week, 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.