CONTINUED FUNDING FOR ON-TRIBAL TERRITORIES LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL SERVICES

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, Federal authorities are obligated to serve the communities of USET member Tribes to ensure appropriate law enforcement, including but not limited to, investigation, prosecution, sentencing and probation monitoring to ensure completion of court ordered sentences and alternatives to sentencing; and

WHEREAS, many USET member Tribes do not enjoy full jurisdictional authority or funding to ensure appropriate law enforcement without the assistance of State and Federal authorities; and

WHEREAS, most USET member Tribes provide on-reservation law enforcement coverage, which maintains close contact with community members and community business enterprises and provides initial investigation and referral services Tribally, locally, and Federally; and

WHEREAS, every USET Tribe is committed to ensuring public safety and many USET Tribes operate commercial enterprises that attract inhabitants that exceed their service population which greatly impact the on-tribal territories law enforcement resources; and

WHEREAS, the President’s proposed FY 2009 budget cuts combined with the failure of the United States (U.S.) Attorney’s Offices and State Prosecutors to properly communicate with Tribes place on-tribal territories law enforcement coverage at risk; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget has zeroed out all funding for Tribal courts, including funding to conduct independent Tribal court reviews and all other justice funding is substantially reduced; and

WHEREAS, USET recognizes that accurate statistics are used to drive appropriations and efforts to collect and report empirical statistical data related to on-tribal territories law enforcement and judicial activities have been inadequate and fail to reflect, among other things, impacts to on-tribal territories law enforcement service providers, including courts and court related services; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests the reinstatement of funding for Tribal courts, on-tribal territories law enforcement and increased funding for the Department of Justice, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Homeland Security, and increased funding to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for prosecution services on Indian Lands; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests the Department of Justice to direct the U.S. Attorney’s Office to collect statistical data for all case referrals and prosecution declinations and to share these statistics with USET; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors authorizes the USET Executive Director to work with the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney General to thoroughly address the issues in this resolution.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on February 15, 2007.

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Cheryl Dowling, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”