



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2007:032

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-site/on-tribal territories 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 2008 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 relative 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 Thursday, February 15, 2007.

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

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

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*