



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2008:019

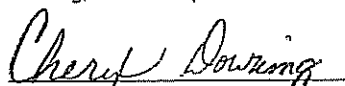
POSITION ON FISCAL YEAR 2009 PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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 4, 2008 the President released the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Budget Request to the public; and
- WHEREAS,** the President's FY2009 Budget included \$2.3 Billion in total funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which is \$106.0 Million below the FY 2008 enacted levels; and
- WHEREAS,** USET Tribes were very active in the formulation of the initial FY2009 BIA budget needs submitted to the Department of Interior for inclusion in the final version of the President's Proposed FY2009 Budget Request; and
- WHEREAS,** USET provided testimony on Tribal priorities and unmet needs to the BIA in order to ensure that Tribal budgetary concerns were heard and included in the BIA budget; and USET Tribes, along with other Tribes from across the country, provided testimony on Tribal priorities and unmet needs to the BIA in order to ensure that Tribal fiscal concerns were heard in the BIA budget development process; and
- WHEREAS,** there are some positive aspects included in the President's Proposed FY2009 budget 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 to be detrimental to Tribes, therefore, be it
- 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 \$13.8 Million
 - Reduction of \$12.5 Million, a 50% decrease, to Road Maintenance
 - Total Elimination of the Housing Improvement Program in the amount of \$13.6 Million
 - Reduction of \$14.4 Million in Welfare Assistance; 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 to work with Tribes in an effort to restore funding to these programs in the FY2009 Bureau of Indian Affairs/ Department of the Interior Budget.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Arlington, VA on Thursday, February 14, 2008.


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


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

"Because there is strength in Unity"