



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2009:002

SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERSERVED TRUST AREA INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (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 represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal areas are the worst served communities in America with regard to water, power and telecommunications service; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States (U.S.) Federal Government has a trust responsibility to federally recognized Tribal Governments to ensure they receive parity of infrastructure service with other American communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers crucial infrastructure loans and grant funding to rural communities under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936; and
- WHEREAS,** current market forces and governmental programs are not meeting the infrastructure needs of tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** in June, 2008, Congress passed the Farm Bill amending the Rural Electrification Act reauthorizing program within the USDA; and
- WHEREAS,** a new provision, Section 6105, was added to the Rural Electrification Act targeting services for Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTAs) to identify and improve the availability of eligible programs in these communities; and
- WHEREAS,** these statutory SUTA provisions include the use of 2% of funding for loans and extended repayment terms for Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the new SUTA provisions are discretionary as "the Secretary... may implement an initiative..."; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly urges the Secretary of Agriculture to immediately implement a Substantially Underserved Trust Area initiative to assist tribal communities.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed by the USET Board of Directors on Thursday, October 16, 2008.

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

Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.