United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

USET Resolution No. 2009:009

SUPPORT FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR NASHVILLE AREA INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SANITATION FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

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, a U.S. Government treaty obligation exists to provide health services for 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN); and

WHEREAS, the Indian Health Service (IHS), under the direction of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), provides for the well being of members of federally recognized Indian Tribes through the Office of Public Health to comply with the treaty obligations; and

WHEREAS, one of the programs administered by the IHS Office of Public Health is the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program (SFCP); and

WHEREAS, it is known that when safe water and adequate wastewater disposal systems are available in the home, they are of fundamental importance to social and economic development, which leads to an improved quality of life and an improved sense of well-being for Tribal members; and

WHEREAS, HHS provides an annual budget to the IHS for the SFCP for the installation and repair of safe drinking water supplies and adequate wastewater disposal systems for tribal members; and

WHEREAS, these funds are divided amongst the twelve areas of the IHS; and

WHEREAS, the NAO of the IHS services the member Tribes of USET for the SFCP; and

WHEREAS, the SFCP funding for Nashville Area has remained stagnant at $3.4 million for the last seven budget years; and

WHEREAS, the need for IHS SFCP funds continues to escalate year after year, and the cost of construction of wells and wastewater treatment disposal systems have doubled in the past six years; and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of sufficient funding to the Nashville Area SFCP, many Tribes have not been awarded funding for several years leaving the Tribes unable to provide safe drinking water facilities and adequate wastewater disposal systems for their members in both existing homes and for new construction homes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors strongly urges the Chief of the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction to provide adequate funding to the Nashville Area Office to provide the desperately needed safe drinking water and adequate wastewater disposal systems for the American Indians/Alaska Natives living in the tribally designated areas of USET Tribes; and, be it further

"Because there is strength in Unity"
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests the Director of Indian Health Service, Robert G. McSwain, to increase the annual budget to $14 million from Congress for the provision of Sanitation Facilities Construction for American Indians/Alaska Natives in the upcoming budget session and future budget sessions to comply with the U.S. Government treaty obligations to provide the needed health services.

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.