SUPPORT FOR FUNDING OF SECTION 703 OF NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996 FOR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE 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, the United States (U.S.) Congress recognized the need for housing assistance and economic development in Indian Country when they passed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) as amended; and

WHEREAS, NAHASDA states in Section 703 that funding is to be provided to a national organization representing Native American housing interests to provide training and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, this training and technical assistance is essential to Tribes who provide low-income housing for their members through the Indian Housing Block Grant; and

WHEREAS, this training and technical assistance is essential for USET Tribes and all of Indian Country to maintain compliance with NAHASDA and to train their staff regarding housing regulations, policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the National American Indian Housing Council has historically provided training and technical assistance to Tribes through Section 703 of NAHASDA; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2009 President’s budget request does not include any funding to a national organization representing Native American housing interests in providing training and technical assistance to Indian housing authorities and Tribally designated housing entities; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests that no less than $4.8M of the Department of Housing and Urban Development budget be appropriated to a national organization for training and technical assistance to Tribes, as well as funding for all ensuing years be labeled as a separate appropriation to a national organization for training and technical assistance; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports appropriations through Section 703 of Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 for training and technical assistance to be provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the National American Indian Housing Council.

"Because there is strength in Unity"
CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

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

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

"Because there is strength in Unity"