



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike
Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
P: (615) 872-7900
F: (615) 872-7417
www.usetinc.org

USET SPF Resolution No. 2021 SPF: 001

URGING THE REMOVAL OF STAFFORD ACT NON-FEDERAL MATCH REQUIREMENTS AND STREAMLINING OF TRIBAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION REQUESTS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** federal trust and treaty obligations are the result of the millions of acres of land and extensive resources ceded to the U.S.—oftentimes by force— in exchange for which it is legally and morally obligated to provide benefits and services in perpetuity; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and all of its agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), have a treaty and trust obligations to all Tribal Nations, including the obligation to respond to and support a Tribal Nation's request for a major disaster or emergency declaration under the Stafford Act; and
- WHEREAS,** the Stafford Act does not require an automatic non-federal match and allows FEMA the discretion to waive the non-federal match up to 25 percent, yet despite this discretion FEMA consistently applies the maximum 25 percent non-federal match to every Tribal emergency or major disaster declaration; and
- WHEREAS,** there is no treaty or agreement between Tribal Nations and the United States Government that requires a non-federal match for Tribal Nations to receive the resources promised to us; and
- WHEREAS,** non-federal match requirements are based on a concept that non-federal governments must invest their own resources to receive federal assistance from DHS, which abrogates DHS's trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** many Tribal Nations avoid seeking federal assistance in response to emergencies or disasters because of significantly burdensome processes imposed by FEMA under the Pilot Declarations Process and the non-federal match requirements; and
- WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the unnecessary and burdensome unfunded mandates and requirements created by FEMA prevent a majority of Tribal Nations from seeking federal assistance authorized by the Stafford Act; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations remain the furthest behind among the U.S. family of governments in response and recovery to disaster efforts due to the lack of support in developing levels of

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preparedness, as well as burdensome and unnecessary requirements to identify a Tribal disaster; and

WHEREAS, when a Tribal Nation submits a request for a major disaster or emergency declaration FEMA often takes an inordinate amount of time to send the request and recommendation to the President, costing valuable time to seek waivers or relief from Congress; and

WHEREAS, the FEMA review process for major disaster or emergency declaration requests is not transparent, which makes it almost impossible for Tribal Nations to successfully appeal the decision if their request is denied; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon Congress to maintain the Stafford Act's Tribal provisions and to specifically add language waiving any non-federal match requirements for Tribal Nations; and be it further

RESOLVED the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to immediately eliminate any agency-imposed non-federal match requirement for Tribal Nations to receive federal assistance, which includes any existing or proposed regulations, policies, grant applications, or other guiding documents; and be it further

RESOLVED the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to immediately establish a policy to forward any and all Tribal emergency or major disaster declaration requests without cumbersome administrative requirements or any other complex application processes imposed, and to submit these requests to the President with a recommendation of the FEMA Administrator within 10-working days and forward a copy of the recommendation to the submitting Tribal Nation.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed by the USET SPF Executive Committee, at which a quorum was present, on July 23, 2021.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



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Nashville TN Office
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Ste. 100
Nashville TN 37214
P: (615) 872-7900
F: (615) 872-7417

Washington DC Office
400 North Capitol St., Ste. 585
Washington DC 20001
P: (202) 624-3550
F: (202) 393-5218

USET SPF Resolution No. 2020 SPF:017

REQUESTING CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO ESTABLISH AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS POSITION AND A NATIONAL TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL


- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty (30) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal government has not met its treaty and trust responsibilities to the thirty Tribal Nations of USET SPF in regard to building their capability to address the five mission areas of homeland security as required by the Homeland Security Act of 2002; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET SPF Member Tribal Nations have the same responsibilities to protect their citizens as state governments, but are not afforded the same funding as state and local governments; and
- WHEREAS,** despite its ongoing presence in Indian Country, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does not have an advisory body comprised of representatives from Indian Country to advise the Secretary of Homeland Security on Tribal homeland security and emergency services issues; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations have been left out of homeland security funding, thus making Indian Country a weak link in the National Security Plan, a disparity that could be remedied by proper planning and investments into Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations' homeland security, public safety, and emergency services personnel courageously serve and protect Tribal citizens and others within Tribal communities, often working with many local jurisdictions through mutual aid agreements; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that USET SPF calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to establish a Tribal Advisory Council to advise the Secretary of Homeland Security on Tribal homeland security and emergency services issues and needs; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that USET SPF calls upon Congress or the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Tribal Affairs in the Department of Homeland


Security to directly address the needs of Indian Country in the areas of homeland security and emergency services; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of USET SPF until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting held on the Sovereign Territory of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians at which a quorum was present on November 7, 2019.


Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
Sovereignty Protection Fund


Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
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P: (202) 624-3550
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USET SPF Resolution No. 2020 SPF:016

CALLING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO BEGIN FORMAL CONSULTATION WITH TRIBAL NATIONS AND BEGIN THE FORMAL RULEMAKING PROCESS FOR TRIBAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty (30) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to provide a path for federally recognized Tribal Nations to directly request a Presidential emergency or major disaster declaration; and
- WHEREAS,** from 2013 to 2017 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an agency within the Department of Homeland Security processed Tribal declarations of emergency using regulations created for state declarations; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2017 FEMA established a Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance and began processing Tribal declarations through this guidance rather than the state regulations; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance was created after DHS conducted government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations, but includes several harmful provisions that were not consulted on, such as a minimum damage amount Tribal Nations must meet to declare a disaster; and
- WHEREAS,** provisions like the minimum damage amount are arbitrary and have prevented some Tribal Nations from receiving funding from a Presidential Disaster Declaration and applying for further funding to save lives and protect property in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS has a trust responsibility to provide emergency assistance and services to Tribal Nations and their citizens, but since the introduction of the Pilot Guidance, Tribal Nations have been challenged by process and guidelines that run contrary to the intent of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 when trying to access emergency resources; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore be it

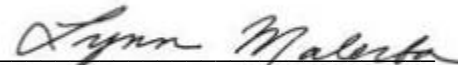
- RESOLVED** that USET SPF calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to begin a new round of government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations on the Tribal disaster declaration process to assess the success of the Pilot Guidance, as well as ways to improve the process; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that USET SPF calls upon the Department of Homeland Security, after consultation with Tribal Nation, to begin the formal rulemaking process for Tribal disaster declarations; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be the policy of USET SPF until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting held on the Sovereign Territory of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, at which a quorum was present on November 7, 2019.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
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USET SPF Resolution No. 2020 SPF:008

CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO ALLOW ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES ACCESS TO THE TRIBAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty (30) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** federal law sharply limits which Tribal Nations ("directly eligible tribes") are able to participate in the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP) (6 U.S.C. § 601), in violation of the federal government's trust and treaty responsibilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the THSGP is the major source of funding for Tribal Nations to address all their homeland security needs; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has interpreted 6 U.S.C. § 601, without Tribal consultation as required by law, to require that Tribal Nations must be located on or near 50 miles of an international border or a coastline bordering an ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico or international waters, to apply for the THSGP; and
- WHEREAS,** because of the restrictive language regarding "directly eligible tribes" and the DHS 50-mile requirement only approximately 150 of the 573 federally recognized Tribal Nations can apply for the THSGP leaving the majority of Indian Country without any funding to meet their homeland security needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the lack of investment in, and funding of Indian Country in the areas of Tribal homeland security has made Tribal Nations a weak link in the effort to protect all U.S. citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS has a trust responsibility to provide adequate homeland security assistance and services to Tribal Nations and their citizens in order to build capability and capacity in the five mission areas of homeland security to meet the guidelines of the National Preparedness Goal; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, therefore be it

RESOLVED USET SPF calls on Congress to amend the “directly eligible tribes” language to allow all federally recognized Tribal Nations the chance to receive funding under the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program; and be it further

RESOLVED USET SPF calls upon DHS to rescind its additional 50-mile requirement for Tribal Nations to be eligible for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program; and be it further

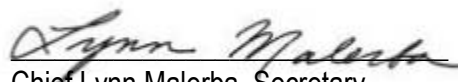
RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of USET SPF until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, November 7th, 2019.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
Sovereignty Protection Fund



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P: (202) 624-3550
F: (202) 393-5218

USET SPF Resolution No. 2019 SPF:021


CALLING UPON CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO ENSURE NECESSARY FUNDING AND FLEXIBILITY FOR TRIBAL NATIONS' HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENTS


- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress and the Administration have have a trust obligation to assist Tribal Nations to protect all citizens, Native and non-Native within their jurisdictions; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2003, Congress has allocated over \$55 billion in homeland security grant funds to state and local governments and, at the same time, has allocated just over \$70 million in homeland security grant funding to Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations' Homeland Security and Emergency Management Departments are often the first and, many times, the only responders to disasters in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the funding agency for all grant funding allocated/authorized by Congress to support the National Preparedness Goal; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS allows FEMA to dictate competitive grant processes and procedures in such a way that funding for Tribal emergency management programmatic support remains largely allocated directly to and controlled by states; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations and Tribal emergency management organizations have limited access to direct funding from DHS, and some current funding mechanisms require Tribal Nations and their emergency management organizations to seek funds through state governments; and
- WHEREAS,** there are glaring disparities and eligibility restrictions for Tribal Nations, as compared to states, in funding across an array of DHS grant programs, to include but not limited to; Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, Pre-disaster Mitigation Grants, Preparedness Grants, Assistance to firefighters grants and Emergency Management Performance Grants; Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS must work with Tribal Nations to identify and eliminate both procedural and current eligibility impediments by working directly with Tribal Nations; to facilitate greater access to Homeland Security grant program; and

- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it resolved;
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to offer a full complement of agency programs, to provide greater access and equitable, baseline funding to Tribal Nations across those agency programs; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to reaffirm its commitment to building a strong and lasting partnership with Tribal Nations by directly funding Tribal Nations to build, sustain, and improve their capabilities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Congress to allow the Department of Homeland Security reallocate funding to federally recognized Tribal Nations and to prioritize Tribal acquisitions of homeland security equipment purchased with federal grant funds and considered surplus by state and local governments; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon Congress to increase the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program to \$20 Million dollars in annual funding for Tribal Direct Grants for the next five years.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA on March 7, 2019.


Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund


Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund

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Nashville TN Office
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Ste. 100
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400 North Capitol St., Ste. 585
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P: (202) 624-3550
F: (202) 393-5218

USET SPF Resolution No. 2019 SPF:020


HOMELAND SECURITY 50-MILE RULE CHANGE AND FUNDING EQUITY

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** USET SPF Tribal Nations are partners with the federal government in homeland security and emergency services activities, and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal leaders and Tribal organizations are continuously faced with the challenge of educating the federal government of its trust responsibilities for providing for the public safety and well-being of the Tribal Nations, including homeland security and emergency services; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal government woefully underfunds Tribal homeland security programs, with less than a dollar of every hundred dollars allocated for state programs allocated for Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** USET SPF was instrumental in working with Congress to draft the authorities and requirements in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, which authorized the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to provide funding to Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the DHS first issued a grant under its Tribal Homeland Security Grant program in 2008, without consultation and with only minimal collaboration with Tribal Nations, as required by law; and
- WHEREAS,** in fulfillment of the trust responsibility, DHS should directly and adequately fund Tribal Nations and not pass those funds through states, who frequently do not pass them along. and DHS has not consulted with Tribal Nations on the petition process for funds to be provided directly to Tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS,** the criteria established in grant guidance of, "50 miles from a border," is a creation of the Department of Homeland Security and has a Tribal implication as identified in the Department's Tribal Consultation Policy, but there was no Tribal consultation; and
- WHEREAS,** the 50-mile criteria is not congruent with the "reasonable distance" utilized by other DHS activities and the 100 air mile rule promulgated in 8 CFR 287.1; and

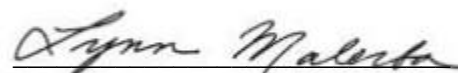
- WHEREAS,** the establishment of the “directly eligible tribes,” criteria by Congress fails to address all potential risks by only allowing a limited number of Tribal Nations or Tribal organizations to apply; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Homeland Security Secretary to immediately change the “50-mile” criteria to, at the very minimum, match the “100-air mile reasonable distance,” used for over seven decades in border enforcement activities; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors contends that DHS must ensure that states uphold statutory requirements to provide funding to Tribal Nations for the development of core capabilities, but also move towards direct funding for Tribal Nations; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors urges Congress to eliminate the definition of “directly eligible tribe” and allow all Tribal Nations and organizations to be eligible to apply for risk-based funding; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors strongly urges the Department of Homeland Security to evaluate the full complement of agency programs, to provide greater access and equitable baseline funding to Tribal Nations across those agency programs; and, be it finally
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to reaffirm its commitment to building a strong and lasting partnership with Tribal Nations by directly funding Tribal Nations to build, sustain, and improve their capabilities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, March 7, 2019.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
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P: (615) 872-7900
F: (615) 872-7417

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Washington DC 20001
P: (202) 624-3550
F: (202) 393-5218

USET SPF Resolution No. 2019 SPF:019

CALLING ON CONGRESS TO FUND ESSENTIAL HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ALL TRIBAL NATIONS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress and the Administration have a trust obligation to assist Tribal Nations to protect all citizens, Native and non-Native, within their jurisdictions; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations' Homeland Security and Emergency Management Departments are often the first, and many times, the only responders to disasters in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2003, Congress has allocated over \$55 billion in homeland security grant funds to state and local governments but, at the same time, has only allocated just over \$70 million in homeland security grant funding to Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** a minimum of 1.5 full time equivalent (FTE's) would be required per Tribal Nations to meet the minimum homeland security and emergency management requirements set by the Homeland Security Act and the Robert T. Stafford Act along with standards developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Fire Administration, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Emergency Management Accreditation Program; and
- WHEREAS,** providing each of the 573 federally recognized Tribal Nations with \$360,000 annually to develop and sustain core homeland security and emergency management capabilities would total \$206 million; and
- WHEREAS,** according to the National Institute of Building Sciences, an investment by the federal government in Tribal homeland security and emergency management capabilities would provide a return on investment of six dollars for every dollar invested; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon Congress to annually appropriate \$206 million for non-competitive grants to all 573 federally recognized Tribal Nations, totaling

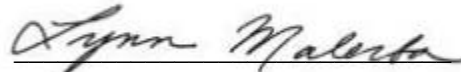
\$360,000 per Tribal Nation, for essential homeland security and emergency management capacity building.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA on March 7, 2019.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
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USET SPF Resolution No. 2018 SPF:015

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO FUND TRIBAL NATIONS DIRECTLY AND ESTABLISH PARITY IN GRANT FUNDING

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is the funding agency for all grant funding allocated and authorized by Congress to support the National Preparedness Goal; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to dictate competitive grant processes and procedures in such a way that funding for Tribal emergency management programmatic support remains largely allocated directly to and controlled by states; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations and Tribal emergency management organizations have limited access to direct funding from the DHS, as the current funding mechanisms require Tribal Nations and their emergency management organizations to seek funds through state governments; and
- WHEREAS,** current emergency management funding mechanisms and grant eligibility guidelines disregard Tribal sovereignty and self-determination and are not consistent with FEMA Tribal Policy, FP 305-111-1, that declares "Tribal governments are not political subdivisions of states, but are to be recognized by the United States as distinct sovereigns"; and
- WHEREAS,** there are glaring funding disparities and eligibility restrictions for Tribal Nations, as compared to states, across an array of DHS grant programs, to include, but not limited to: Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants, Pre-disaster Mitigation Grants, Preparedness Grants, Assistance to Firefighters Grants and Emergency Management Performance Grants and the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS must work to identify and eliminate both procedural and current eligibility impediments by working directly with Tribal governments to facilitate greater access to Homeland Security grant programs; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS must ensure that its funding allocation methodology addresses the stark funding disparities between Tribal Nations and states by providing equitable and baseline funding to Tribal Nations, eliminating competitive grant cycles, and advocating for contracting and

compacting authorities similar to the Indian self-determination programs administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to work with Tribal Nations to identify and eliminate both procedural and current eligibility impediments to working directly with Tribal governments; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET SPF Board of Directors requests that the Department of Homeland Security offer a full complement of agency programs to Tribal Nations, as well as provide greater access and equitable baseline funding across those agency programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED the USET SPF Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to reaffirm its commitment to building a strong and lasting partnership with Tribal Nations by directly funding Tribal Nations to build, sustain, and improve their capabilities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF IMPACT Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, DC on February, 7th 2018



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
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USET Resolution No. 2018:001

CHANGING THE TITLE OF THE USET TRIBAL EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE TO HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Emergency Services Committee deliberated a title change to rename itself the "Homeland Security and Emergency Services Committee"; and
- WHEREAS,** the purpose of the title change is to adequately capture the full responsibilities of the Committee and its respective committee members who are charged with supporting USET Tribal Nations in their preparation for, mitigation of, response to, and recovery from all hazards and disasters; and
- WHEREAS,** the Committee endeavors to support Tribal Nations and first responders to build, sustain, and improve capabilities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards, which would fulfill the role of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in support of the U.S. National Preparedness Goal; and
- WHEREAS,** the Committee, in keeping with its title change, would promote Tribal Nation capacity development and program capabilities in the mission areas identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as articulated in the U.S. National Preparedness Goal: Protection, Prevention, Response, Recovery and Mitigation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Committee understands the role of public safety to include areas that are outlined in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's fourteen (14) Emergency Support Functions, the scope of which is much greater than Emergency Services and includes functions like transportation, communication, and public health; and
- WHEREAS,** the Committee would continue to promote communication, collaboration, and coordination among the USET Tribal Nations to achieve public safety and to be engaged in regional and national initiatives, consultations, and strategies to represent the interests of USET Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors approves the name change of the Tribal Emergency Services Committee to the new title of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Committee; and, be it further

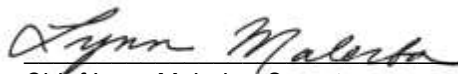
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports a more comprehensive role for the Committee and affirms its responsibility to support Tribal Nations and their first responders to build, sustain, and improve capabilities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards, which would fulfill the role of Homeland Security and Emergency Services in support of the United States National Preparedness Goal; and the Board of Directors further supports the Committee's mission to include areas that are outlined in the United States Department of Homeland Security's fourteen (14) Emergency Support Functions.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, NC, October 12, 2017.



Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2015:029**SUPPORT FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS TO REQUEST STUDIES CONCERNING
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE IN TRIBAL NATIONS**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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,** little academic information exists concerning homeland security and emergency management in Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** federal policy-makers and Tribal leaders need quality information to help shape funding and policy regarding Tribal emergency response; and
- WHEREAS,** quality information about the challenges of disaster recovery and response in Indian Country will help direct federal policies to create essential resources and services for Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** some specific recommendations and changes are needed to improve the Stafford Act and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) implementation of programs in Indian Country to produce more effective disaster planning, preparedness, and capacity building; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests the Administration and United States Congress to commission studies from the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Research Service to examine disaster preparedness and response in Indian Country and share information among federal agencies and Tribal Nations to better understand the unmet needs of Tribal communities when disaster strike.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 12, 2015.

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

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2015:028

INCREASE TRIBAL HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM FUNDING FOR TRIBAL NATIONS AND PRESERVE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 has allocated a minimum of .1% of Homeland Security Grant (USDHSG) program funding to federally recognized Indian Tribes which totals less than \$2 million annually to serve all federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the USDHSG risk based consideration to determine eligibility creates two different classes of federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** each Tribe has a different level of capability, capacity, and need for homeland security and emergency management and a one size fits all approach is not an appropriate method of support for all federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** USET is encouraged by the increased funding that the Secretary of Homeland Security has allocated for Tribal grant programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the rights of self-determination and Tribal sovereignty are not upheld when the Congress abrogates its trust and treaty responsibility to the Indian Tribes by approving homeland security grant funds that requires the sovereign Tribal nations to request funding from states; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the United States Congress to increase the funding allocation for Tribal homeland security grant funding to at least 10% of the total amount appropriated to the states or \$20 million annually, whichever is greater, and appropriate at least an additional \$4 million annually to reinstate funding for the development and management of a Tribal emergency management assistance program; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests the United States Congress to amend all laws for grants-in-aid funding related to homeland security be passed directly to Tribes rather than through states; and be it finally

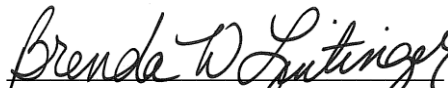
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors request the United States Congress amend the Homeland Security Act to allow all federally recognized Indian tribes to apply for such funding.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 12, 2015.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"



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Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2015:023

REQUESTING A FEDERAL-TRIBAL-STATE INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE KILLING OF PETER FRANCIS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT FEDERAL-TRIBAL-STATE TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE THE UNSOLVED AND UNPROSECUTED KILLINGS OF WABANAKI PEOPLE IN THE STATE OF MAINE

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an inter-Tribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 State of Maine asserted near exclusive criminal jurisdiction over Indian reservations in Maine until 1975; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Maine continues to exercise criminal jurisdiction over all felonies on Indian reservations in Maine; and
- WHEREAS,** there is a disturbing historical propensity in the State of Maine where Wabanaki People are targeted for violence because of their status as native people, and
- WHEREAS,** criminal convictions against the perpetrators of violence aimed at Wabanaki People have not been attained; and
- WHEREAS,** Peter Francis, a Passamaquoddy elder and World War II veteran, was brutally killed in 1965 by five non-Indian men who traveled to the Passamaquoddy community of Pleasant Point with the goal of propositioning Passamaquoddy women; and
- WHEREAS,** a heinous assault was also perpetrated against Christy Altvater, another Passamaquoddy man, who never fully recovered from his injuries; and
- WHEREAS,** local law enforcement only investigated the incident at the request of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and subsequent Grand Jury proceedings resulted in manslaughter charges against only one of the five men present when Peter Francis was murdered and no criminal charges were brought in the violent assault of Christy Altvater; and
- WHEREAS,** a trial in the killing of Peter Francis resulted in a not guilty verdict that was widely considered to have been the product of prosecutorial indiscretions and a widespread failing of the State of Maine's criminal justice system; and
- WHEREAS,** in the late summer of 1967, Maine State Law Enforcement Officers including state police, deputy sheriffs and game wardens, descended on the Pleasant Point community breaking into Tribal

members homes without warrants, and assaulted Tribal members for a perceived assault on a state trooper; and

WHEREAS, a State Court Judge, Ian McInnes publically stated that he was “very disturbed” about the actions of state law enforcement officials and urged a “forthright investigation of the police actions”; and

WHEREAS, no action was taken against law enforcement for the violations of Tribal members civil rights; and

WHEREAS, unfortunate stories such as this are all too common in Wabanaki communities; and

WHEREAS, the failure of the State of Maine and United States’ justice systems to adequately protect the civil rights of Peter Francis and Wabanaki People in the State of Maine has opened the door for numerous killings and brutal acts of violence for which no justice has ever been served; and

WHEREAS, certain discrepancies in how these crimes against Wabanaki People have been investigated and prosecuted by State and Federal agencies fosters distrust between Maine’s Tribal and criminal justice communities; and

WHEREAS, this distrust hinders the ability of Tribal communities to heal from these historical traumas and obstructs the ability of law enforcement to adequately protect those whom they are obligated to protect and serve; and

WHEREAS, public safety and trust in Tribal communities demands that active efforts be undertaken to repair the damaged relationship between law enforcement and Tribal communities in Maine to promote justice for all; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests a Tribal, State, and Federal Criminal and Civil Rights inquiry into the killing of Peter Francis and the manner in which the criminal proceedings related to his killing were undertaken; and be it further

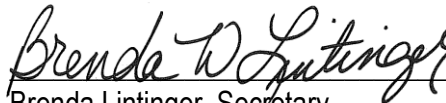
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests that a Joint Tribal, State and Federal Task Force be formed to inquire into the unsolved and unprosecuted killings of Wabanaki People in the State of Maine, and to produce a report with recommendations to address past abuses and implement future policies that will foster fair and just relations between Tribal communities and law enforcement agencies.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 12, 2015.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”



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Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2013:012

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 Tribal Emergency Services Committee works to provide information and guidance to USET member Tribes so that they may handle emergency situations effectively; and
- WHEREAS,** the recent amendments to the Stafford Act will require the creation of rules and policies that will affect USET member Tribes and other federally recognized Indian Tribes across the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** meaningful Tribal consultation will be critical for the creation of required rules, policy, and procedure resulting from the recent amendments of the Stafford Act by the Hurricane Sand Relief Bill (H.R. 152); and
- WHEREAS,** additional Tribal consultation on amendments to the Stafford Act in regulations and policies will be needed to adequately provide services to USET member Tribes and federally recognized Indian Tribes across the United States; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests and supports the creation of a Tribal Advisory Committee that will be comprised of Tribal Representation from federally recognized Indian Tribes across the country; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests direct consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in matters that affect Indian Tribes.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 7, 2013.

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

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2013:011

SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A TRIBAL SEAT ON THE NATIONAL RESPONSE COORDINATION CENTER

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 heightened efficiency and effectiveness of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to organize and respond to Tribal needs during Hurricane Sandy has made the USET Tribal Emergency Services Committee realize the need for a tribal representative in the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC); and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Emergency Services Committee works to provide information and guidance to USET and member Tribes so that they may handle emergency situations effectively; and
- WHEREAS,** the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is dedicated to building government-to-government relationships and providing emergency assistance to Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** communication between the NRCC and Indian Tribes is crucial during the response and recovery period of disaster in order to receive assistance from federal partners for the affected areas; and
- WHEREAS,** the permanent placement of a Tribal desk at the NRCC during an event or disaster would be advantageous to all Indian Tribes to create efficient and effective response and recovery efforts; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports Administrator Craig Fugate's goal to make the Tribal desk a permanent part of the National Response Coordination Center; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that a qualified individual with emergency management experience, cultural awareness, and a working knowledge of Tribal Governments be placed at the desk.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 7, 2013.

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

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2013:006**AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN TRIBAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 Tribal Emergency Management Association (iTEMA) is an emerging national association with a mission to promote a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to coordinate and enhance emergency management, disaster response, recovery, mitigation, health and cultural preservation to protect all Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** iTEMA is an advocate and coordinating body for training, incident response, project delivery, and other efforts to support and enhance each discipline that provides emergency management and services; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has a continuing interest in the health, education, and well-being of all American Indian people; and
- WHEREAS,** USET recognizes that collaboration among all emergency management disciplines is essential to ensuring the continued protection and safety of Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** USET understands that there is an advantage for its member Tribes to participate in training and exercises with other federally recognized Tribes to enhance skills in the areas of emergency management, emergency services and homeland security; and
- WHEREAS,** USET recognizes that planning, training exercises, and enhanced communications among other disciplines is paramount for continued success of emergency management and preparedness; and
- WHEREAS,** the participation with iTEMA is in the best interest of USET and its member Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors authorizes the Tribal Emergency Services Committee to initiate and sustain participation in the Tribal Emergency Management Association.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Uncasville, CT, on Friday, October 12, 2012.

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

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2012:048

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND INDIAN TRIBES ON THE NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS GRANT STRATEGY

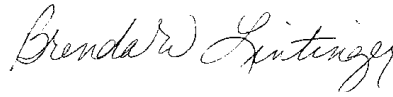
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Emergency Services Departments strive to protect their lands and people from homeland security threats and to initiate protective measures similar to the states; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member Tribes have not had the same opportunities for capacity-building that states have had through over a decade of the United States Department of Homeland Security funding to increase their homeland security program infrastructure as states have received billions of Federal program dollars, while Tribes have only in the last 4 years made progress in accessing bare minimum grants; and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP), administered by FEMA, was created to provide Tribal direct funding to implement preparedness initiatives; and
- WHEREAS,** the Fiscal Year 2012 guidelines have been issued for the THSGP, and though grants are not funded at the level of need that Tribes have requested, the grant program is functional; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has worked for years to get the THSGP in place, however, the proposed FY 2013 budget strategy will eliminate the THSGP and combine all grants into the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP); and
- WHEREAS,** USET is concerned that within the National Preparedness Grant Program there are no grants that specifically acknowledge Tribal Government eligibility in grant programs, and other grant programs for which Tribes would have been eligible for will be absorbed into the NPGP; and
- WHEREAS,** the administration's FY 2013 budget strategy and the accompanying grant eligibility criteria was developed in consultation with State Governors and State emergency managers, without input from Tribal Leaders and Tribal emergency managers; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed changes are critical to Tribal Governments' homeland security participation in national coordinated efforts and are integral to local Tribal community public safety; and therefore be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly recommends that no further action be taken on the proposed FY 2013 National Preparedness Grant Strategy until the United States Department of Homeland Security has initiated meaningful consultation with Indian Tribes under Executive Order 13175.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 24, 2012.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2012:032

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT OF THE STAFFORD ACT, TO ALLOW TRIBES TO REQUEST PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS

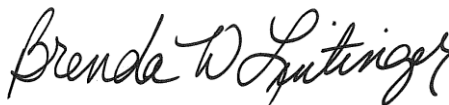
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Indian Tribes hold a unique status in the United States with the rights and benefits of sovereign nations; and
- WHEREAS,** this relationship has its underpinnings in the U.S. Constitution, specifically, the Indian Commerce Clause, the Treaty Clause and the Supremacy Clause, in numerous treaties between the U.S. and Indian Tribes and through the cession by of vast tracts of Indian lands; and
- WHEREAS,** in recognition of the trust relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, Tribal governments should be afforded at least the same status as other territories, possessions, and the States; and
- WHEREAS,** Under the Stafford Act, only States through their respective Governors can request a major disaster or emergency declination from the President; and
- WHEREAS,** federally recognized Indian Tribes are excluded from making such a direct request for a President declaration and are forced to make a request through the State in which they are geographically located; and
- WHEREAS,** a change to the law would acknowledge the sovereignty of federally recognized Indian Tribes and enhance U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) working relationship with Tribal Governments; and
- WHEREAS,** FEMA announced on December 7, 2011 the Administration's support for a legislative amendment to the Stafford Act to permit federally recognized Indian Tribes to make disaster declaration requests directly to the President; and therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors reaffirms USET Resolution No. 2001:01 "Request to amend Public Law 93-288 to give American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Governments the same status as the states, possessions and other trust territories of the United States with regard to presidential disaster declarations; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests the United States Congress amend the Stafford Act in a manner that is consistent with the Administration's December 7, 2011 letter supporting a legislative amendment that recognizes Tribal sovereignty by granting them the authority to make disaster declaration requests directly to the President.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 16, 2012.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2012:031

SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, AND FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY INCREASED EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIAN TRIBES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is working to support the Administration and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by increased consultation and coordination with the Nation's federally recognized Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** FEMA has a stated goal to build a stronger and lasting partnership with Indian Tribes to assist them in preparing for the hazards they face, reducing their disaster vulnerabilities, responding quickly and effectively when disasters strike, and recovering in their aftermath; and
- WHEREAS,** FEMA acknowledges the trust responsibility of the Federal Government to Tribal Governments as established by specific treaties, court decisions, statutes, executive orders, regulations, and policies; and
- WHEREAS,** USET acknowledges and encourages changes such as FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate's elevation of the position of FEMA National Tribal Liaison to Special Advisor for National Tribal Affairs; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests the Federal Emergency Management Agency to continue to support Tribal communities by encouraging States to incorporate the inclusion of Indian Tribes into grant programs and processes, designating full-time Tribal liaisons in appropriate FEMA regional offices, expanding training efforts to develop and deliver regional homeland security and emergency management training at Tribal locations, and periodically engage Tribal Government leadership in planning discussions prior to disasters and coordinate follow-up visits to discuss practical solutions.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 16, 2012.

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

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214
(P): 615-872-7900 • (F): 615-872-7417

USET Resolution No. 2011:052

RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER ELEVENTH 2001 TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 USET Tribal Emergency Services Committee has identified the need to observe the Ten Year Anniversary of the incidents that occurred on September 11, 2001 in New York, Washington D.C., and in the air over Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and
- WHEREAS,** numerous USET member Tribes have established Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services within their communities that protect and serve without caution to self concern and with perseverance; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal communities are in need of these services and are grateful to have these dedicated persons who can be depended on to pull the community together and to provide a service during an emergency situation; and
- WHEREAS,** each USET member Tribe should embrace these services and personnel who are willing to give their lives for their communities with compassion and strength; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recognizes the hard work and dedication of all Tribal Emergency Service departments and personnel throughout the USET member Tribes; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests that each USET member Tribe recognize the Tenth Anniversary of this tragic incident and embrace their emergency service providers.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 19, 2011.

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

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214
(P): 615-872-7900 • (F): 615-872-7417

USET Resolution No. 2011:048

**UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC. TRIBAL EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 FUNDING PRIORITIES**

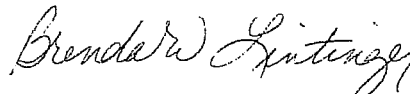
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** federal funding and support is essential for Tribes to enhance their emergency services preparation, response and recovery capabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Tribal Emergency Services Committee has identified the following Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 funding priorities in support of emergencies or disaster situations:
1. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Management Operations Center Grant
 2. FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, including
 - a. Assistance to Fire Fighters (AFG) Grant
 - b. Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Responders (SAFER) Grant
 - c. Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant
 3. FEMA Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant (IECG)
 4. FEMA Tribal Homeland Security Grant; and
- WHEREAS,** various FEMA grant funding opportunities do not include funds set aside for the exclusive use of Tribes and do not allow all Tribes to participate equitably in several programs due to qualification requirements which result in arbitrarily excluding otherwise qualified Tribes, and
- WHEREAS,** the United States has a special trust responsibility to Indian Tribes that is confirmed through various treaties and executive orders; and
- WHEREAS,** this special relationship must be considered when analyzing budget priorities in adherence to the President's sound fiscal responsibility and deficit reduction efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** a proposed reduction to FY 2008 levels, with inflation considered, would equate to a drastic reduction to already severely underfunded Indian programs; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls for the exemption of all Indian programs from any mandatory budget reduction imposed for Fiscal Year 2012 and beyond; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests the United States Congress to support the identified funding priorities for Tribal Emergency Services.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 10, 2011.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2008:014

APPROVAL OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC. MUTUAL AID COMPACT PROJECT

- 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 USET member Tribes are subject to numerous natural and man-made disasters, and
- WHEREAS,** individual Tribal Governments may have limited financial resources, equipment, and/or personnel for emergency and disaster response; and
- WHEREAS,** the immediate needs called for in responding to emergency and disaster situations may quickly overwhelm existing resources within the impacted Tribal community; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribes have been actively and voluntarily responsive to one another during emergency disaster situations, providing supplies, personnel and other requested resources, and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Tribal Emergency Services and Tribal Justice Committees have requested a mechanism to formalize the voluntary response process and address such issues as liability, personnel credentialing and reimbursement, and
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security (DHA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have both provided USET with funding to develop mutual aid compacts amongst USET member Tribes, and
- WHEREAS,** USET has developed a FEMA Advisory Council, comprised of Tribally appointed representatives from the Tribal Emergency Services and Tribal Justice Committees to provide guidance and support throughout the project development; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors approves the development and implementation of the USET Mutual Aid Compact Project to formalize the process by which USET member Tribes respond and assist one another in emergency and disaster situations.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, October 18, 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"



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2007:004

COMPLETION OF THE TRIBAL CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR READINESS

- 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,** in recent years, USET member Tribes have been impacted by a number of natural and man-made disasters; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has received funding to develop a comprehensive report that encompasses the successes and challenges of the 2005 hurricane season and further includes an assessment of Tribal, state and federal response capabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Tribal Emergency Services Committee has identified and recommends the Tribal Capability Assessment for Readiness (TCAR) as the selected tool for Tribal emergency preparedness and response capability assessment; and
- WHEREAS,** completion of the TCAR will assist Tribes in developing or in updating emergency management plans and in implementing emergency management activities; and
- WHEREAS,** the TCAR will also provide a quantifiable measurement of USET member Tribes' current emergency preparedness and response capacity that may be used to advocate for future resource needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Tribal Emergency Services Committee recommends that all USET member Tribes complete the TCAR in an effort to examine their existing emergency management program and further recommends that each member Tribe provide USET with the completed TCAR to be used as a tool to advocate Tribal emergency management resource needs; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors approves and supports the USET Tribal Emergency Services Committee's recommendation and encourages each member Tribe to complete the Tribal Capability Assessment for Readiness.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, on Thursday, October 12, 2006.

Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2006:039

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COMPLIANCE

- 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,** the Tribal Emergency Services Committee members have recognized the need for a unified command system during emergency incidents; and
- WHEREAS,** to achieve a unified command system during emergency incidents requires compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS); and
- WHEREAS,** compliance with the NIMS program will allow tribal entities to obtain continued federal grant funds and/or reimbursement for disaster planning, deployment, etc.; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Emergency Services Committee recommends that all USET member Tribes take appropriate measures to implement the NIMS program in order to achieve compliance with the terms set forth, which include compliance by the federally established deadline; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors approves and supports the Tribal Emergency Services Committee's recommendation that all USET member Tribes respond appropriately to implement NIMS.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 9, 2006.

Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 2002:002

COMMITTEE TITLE CHANGE

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 is comprised of delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2001, the attendees at the EMS & Fire Protection Committee agreed to submit a Committee Title Change request to the USET Board of Directors to change the title of the committee from "EMS & Fire Protection Committee" to "Tribal Emergency Services Committee" ; and

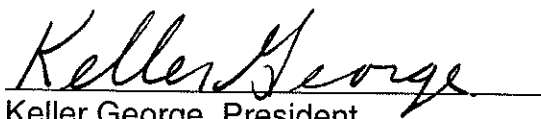
WHEREAS, the purpose of the name change is to reflect the intent of the Committee to promote awareness in the areas of injury prevention, fire prevention and overall community safety as they relate to Emergency Medical Services, Fire Protection and Emergency Management; therefore be it


RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors supports this request and the efforts of the Committee in the promotion of Life Safety to the USET Tribal Nations; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors approves the request for the name change.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Miami, FL, on Thursday, October 25, 2001.


Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Beverly M. Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

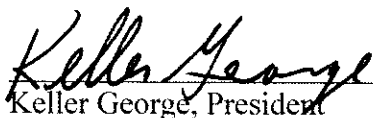
Resolution No. USET 2000:08

TRIBAL EMERGENCY PLANNING – CONTACT LIST

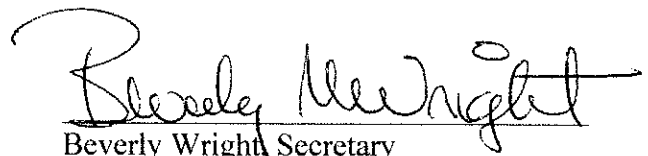
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Federally appointed Tribal liaisons that should be interacting with our Tribal Emergency Management Systems are not readily available; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member tribes do not have a current list of available resources and points of contact; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member tribes would like to establish an open line of communication with each appointed liaison including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA), National Fire Administration (NFA), Department of Transportation for Emergency Medical Services, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); and
- WHEREAS,** USET member tribes desire to establish and formalize an effective communication system to enhance the education and training for all Tribal Nations; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors directs the Executive Director to request that a current list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of the points of contacts of the above named federal entities is provided by the next meeting of the United South and Eastern Tribes, (USET) Inc., for the purpose of establishing a Liaison position to coordinate the activities of members of this committee with relevant Federal and/or State authorities to facilitate Emergency Planning activities.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Board of Directors Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Verona, NY Thursday, October 28, 1999.



Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2000:70

FIRE BILL

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising 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, on March 17, Representatives Pascrell (D-NJ) and Weldon (R-PA), along with 68 co-sponsors, introduced H.R.1168 entitled "Firefighter Investment and Response Act" or, simply, the FIRE Act. The bill was referred to the Committee on Science and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. No companion bill has been introduced in the Senate. No hearing has been set in either of the House committees; and

WHEREAS, the legislation creates a federal grant program to assist America's fire service. The authors cite that the bill is modeled after the successful COPS program for law enforcement. The FIRE Act is endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs and other major fire service organizations. It is designed to benefit large and small departments, urban, suburban, and rural, and career and volunteer departments. In other words this is a bill for the entire fire service and is worthy of support from the entire fire service; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports this bill and appreciates the value that this bill brings to the entire fire service and our Nation; be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors recommends that Tribal Nations be included in the legislative language to continue to foster the Government-to-Government relationship.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Houston, TX Thursday, June 8, 2000.

Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2000:71

SUPPORT OF REVISIONS TO THE STAFFORD ACT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising 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,** the USET Board is requesting a change to the distribution of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants and program assistance, such as Comprehensive HAZMAT Emergency Response Capability Assessment Program (CHER-Cap), Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC), Impact 2000, to provide direct support and contract support; and
- WHEREAS,** to create a government-to-government relationship that recognizes tribal sovereignty FEMA should eliminate the current distribution of funds that pass through Federal and State agencies and allow for distribution of these funds directly to the tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports legislation to revise the Stafford Act adding Indian Nations as direct recipients; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recommends that the FEMA Tribal Regulation Liaison be responsible for updating Tribes on current and potential FEMA regulated support; i.e., training materials, drills, monies, and system tie ins, through programs like Project Impact.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Houston, TX Thursday, June 8, 2000.

Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214
Telephone: (615) 872-7900 • Fax: (615) 872-7417

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 96:09

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST FEMA PARTICIPATION IN EMS AND FIRE
PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING DURING IMPACT WEEK**

- WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-two (22) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET, Inc. Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member Tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a role in the emergency planning and response to the member Tribes of USET; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors recognizes the fact that in order for the member Tribes EMS and Fire Protection programs to improve the services provided to the Tribes they represent, they need to be aware of the latest information and training programs available through FEMA; and
- WHEREAS,** it is imperative to the mission of the EMS and Fire Protection Committee that a representative of FEMA make themselves available at dates and times agreed upon to give a presentation to the Committee,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors does hereby request FEMA to provide a representative to participate in the EMS and Fire Protection Committee Meeting during the 1996 Impact Week to present information on FEMA's policy with respect to emergency planning response to federally recognized Tribes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors requests FEMA to communicate with Mr. Joseph Perry, Jr., Chairman of the EMS and Fire Protection Committee, about specific subject matters before the 1996 meeting date of February 4-9, 1996.

CERTIFICATION

Keller George, President
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Philip Tarbell, Secretary
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"



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711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214
Telephone: (615) 872-7900 • Fax: (615) 872-7417

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 96:10

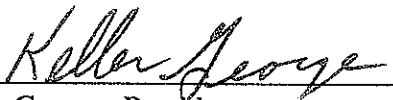
**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST BIA PARTICIPATION IN EMS AND FIRE
PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING DURING IMPACT WEEK**

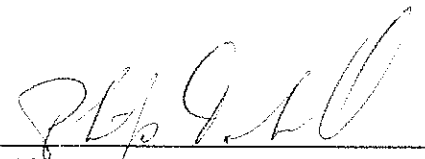
- WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-two (22) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET, Inc. Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member Tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has a role in providing fire protection to the member Tribes of USET; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors recognizes the fact that in order for the member Tribes EMS and Fire Protection programs to improve the services provided to the Tribes they represent, they need to be aware of the latest information and training programs available through BIA; and
- WHEREAS,** it is imperative to the mission of the EMS and Fire Protection Committee that a representative of BIA make themselves available at dates and times agreed upon to give a presentation to the Committee,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors does hereby request BIA to provide a representative to participate in the EMS and Fire Protection Committee Meeting during the 1996 Impact Week to present information on BIA's role with regard to fire protection and training.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors requests BIA to communicate with Mr. Joseph Perry, Jr., Chairman of the EMS and Fire Protection Committee, about specific subject matters before the 1996 meeting date of February 4-9, 1996.

CERTIFICATION


Keller George, President
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Philip Tarbell, Secretary
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"