

**UTE INDIAN TRIBE**

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March 14, 2007

Ms. Nancy Theodore
USDA, Food and Nutrition Services
Food Distribution Division
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 506
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Ms. Theodore,

The Northern Ute Tribe, Fort Duchesne, Utah received your message for comments or recommendation from the Ute Indian Tribe of the State of Utah, on the purposed Funding Methodology to allocate Federal administrative funds for the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

The Regional Negotiated Funding Amount, sounds more favorable to our Food Distribution Program. The reason is it states in the description of the formula that we could negotiate for additional funds, like unforeseen emergency and any other operational needs not adequately provided for under the Basic Grant Amount.

The Basic Grant Amount, we oppose any and all of this draft methodology being considered and feel USDA, has not taken into consideration operational needs and a tribe's rights to negotiation in developing this process..

Sincerely,


Maxine Natchees, Chairperson
Northern Ute Tribe

CC: Jon Yorgason, USDA, Program Specialist