



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2019 SPF:004

SUPPORT FOR RECLAIMING NATIVE TRUTH

- 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,** despite the invaluable contributions to the United States made by Tribal Nations, the continued survival of Tribal culture, and strength of Native people, public perception of Tribal Nations and Native peoples remains biased, inaccurate, and harmful to our progress; and
- WHEREAS,** because of these deeply held misperceptions, Native experiences and voices are largely invisible or fundamentally misrepresented in public discourse; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET SPF 2018 Annual Meeting began on a day that continues to be set aside by the United States where this country shamefully celebrates Christopher Columbus; a man whose legacy includes the destruction of Native peoples and cultures without regard or a sense of humanity; and,
- WHEREAS,** in June 2016, the Reclaiming Native Truth project was launched as a national effort to foster cultural, social, and policy change by empowering Native Americans to counter discrimination, invisibility, and the dominant narratives that limit Native opportunity, access to justice, health, and self-determination; and
- WHEREAS,** Reclaiming Native Truth's goal is to move hearts and minds toward greater respect, inclusion and social justice for Native peoples; and
- WHEREAS,** between 2016 and 2018, Reclaiming Native Truth conducted an unprecedented research campaign designed to increase our understanding of the dominant narrative about Native peoples in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** this comprehensive research was designed to uncover what different groups of Americans across socioeconomic, racial, geographic, gender, political ideology, and generational cohorts perceive, and what they don't know, about Native Americans and Native issues, as well as to learn what types of messages will begin to shift public perception; and
- WHEREAS,** the project's research methodologies included a combination of literature reviews, social listening, focus groups, online focus groups, national surveys, and in-depth interviews; and

- WHEREAS,** researchers found that deficits in education and limited personal experience with Native people and Tribal Nations contributed to a dominant national narrative that renders our history and contemporary life invisible or stereotyped; and
- WHEREAS,** the research also revealed opportunities to change this narrative through education and increased historical accuracy, as well as framing messages in hopeful tones that appeal to personal values; and
- WHEREAS,** this led to the development of a new narrative based in values, history, and visibility that resulted in significantly higher support for Native issues; and
- WHEREAS,** new narratives alone are not enough. They must connect with grassroots organizing, cross-sectoral partnerships with non-Native allies, and unity, not only within Tribal Nations but also among individual Natives and allies; and
- WHEREAS,** Reclaiming Native Truth has created messaging guides for use by both Indian Country Stakeholders and Reclaiming Native Truth Allies; 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 strongly supports and concurs with the conclusions drawn by the research of the Reclaiming Native Truth project, noting this reflects our own experiences; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors will partner with Reclaiming Native Truth to disseminate and amplify the new narrative, and in future efforts designed to promote a positive, accurate portrayal of Native people and Tribal Nations in public discourse.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting held on the Sovereign Territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians, at which a quorum was present on October 11, 2018.


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

Because there is Strength in Unity