



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2019 SPF:009


REINSTATE WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS TRAINING FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES


- 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,** all branches of the federal government, including all departments, bureaus, and agencies of the Executive Branch, hold a sacred trust responsibility and obligation to Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** federal officials make daily decisions impacting Tribal Nation governments, but most American citizens have never received an early education, advanced education or work-related training about American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations, Tribal governments or Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** federal policies can go awry because of a basic lack of knowledge and understanding of the unique federal relationship between the United States Government and Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** federal officials are expected to coordinate and consult with Tribal Nation governments, but absent the essential awareness of the fundamental principles that underlie these responsibilities, they do not have the tools necessary to implement these requirements; and
- WHEREAS,** federal employees working with Tribal Nations must know the key concepts, concerns, historical background, and the legal and cultural frameworks that shape the unique relationship the federal government has with Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** in January 2008, the federal government released, "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments," an on-line training course for the head of each executive department and those federal agency employees who work directly with Tribal Nations or on Tribal issues, including federal grant recipients and contractors; and
- WHEREAS,** the course was evaluated by Tribal, state and local government officials, tested at national Tribal organization meetings, and endorsed by federal agency Tribal advisory groups receiving positive feedback and recommendations for the final design and modifications; and

- WHEREAS,** this training ensures that all federal officials and employees who interact with Tribal Nations have quick basic training to become familiar with the fundamental principles and laws relevant to working with Tribal Nations on a government-to-government basis; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2008, on-going access to the training course has been provided by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM); and
- WHEREAS,** it has recently come to the attention of USET SPF that OPM is no longer hosting, “Working Effectively with Tribal Governments,” on its website; and
- WHEREAS,** USET SPF has consistently supported the training module and has advocated for it to be mandatory for all federal employees; and
- WHEREAS,** it would be a critical mistake to eliminate this training for federal employees and USET SPF is deeply concerned by this development, as this is likely to result in a diminished execution of the federal trust responsibility and obligations, and disagreements between Tribal Nations and the federal government; 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** USET SPF calls upon the Office of Personnel Management to immediately reinstate the on-line training module, entitled, “Working Effectively with Tribal Governments.”

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