



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. 2011:61

CALLING UPON CONGRESS TO RAISE THE FEDERAL DEBT CEILING PURSUANT TO A POLICY THAT ASSURES THE FULFILLMENT OF THE FEDERAL TRUST OBLIGATION TO INDIAN TRIBES AS REFLECTED IN FEDERAL INDIAN PROGRAMS

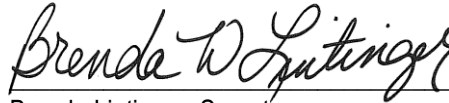
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States (U.S.) will hit the lawful debt ceiling on the amount of money it can borrow to pay the operating costs of the Federal Government by mid-May 2011, although the U.S. Treasury Department has indicated that it can draw from Federal pension accounts and use other accounting devices to postpone the actual day upon which the U.S. would be forced to default on its obligations to the first week of August 2011; and
- WHEREAS,** if the lawful debt ceiling is not raised by the date when the U.S. Treasury Department will no longer be able to meet its obligations, the U.S. government will default on its debts for the first time in history and virtually all bankers and economists say this would be catastrophic for the world economy; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. must address its mounting debt issues, but should not do so at the expense of its trust obligation to Indian Tribes as reflected in a range of federal Indian programs; and
- WHEREAS,** there is substantial debate within the U.S. Congress concerning how to address the debt ceiling, with some members of Congress intending to use the debt ceiling as a tool for achieving federal domestic program cuts in the trillions of dollars over the next several years; and
- WHEREAS,** from the federal trust perspective, a responsible budget policy would (1) protect Indian programs because of their special status due to the trust responsibility; (2) not solely focus on cuts to domestic social programs, but look at the federal budget in its entirety so that when budget cuts are necessary they are shared across all sectors; and (3) include tax increases on the wealthy as it is immoral to cut social programs for the needy during an economic downturn, while maintaining tax cuts for the wealthy and for major, highly profitable, corporations; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the raising of the debt ceiling to assure economic stability; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the U.S. Congress to adopt a budget policy that reflects the policy points made in this resolution and assures the fulfillment of the federal trust obligation through adequately funded federal Indian programs.

CERTIFICATION

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



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”