



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### **USET Resolution No. 2014:012**

#### **STRUCTURAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

- 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, and in numerous treaties, laws and other agreements and understandings between the U.S. and Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** President Obama formed the White House Council on Native American Affairs to foster a closer working relationship with Indian Tribes and to strengthen the implementation of the Federal trust responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** the Council consists of representatives from various Federal agencies, with an advisory group consisting of Tribal leaders; and
- WHEREAS,** the Council represents an extraordinary opportunity to advance the working relationship between the United States and Indian Tribes, to strengthen Tribal sovereignty and the Trust responsibility, and to institutionalize these achievements so that they will endure changes of Administration; and
- WHEREAS,** it would advance achieving these goals if the Council provided for Tribal leaders to effectively become sitting members of the Council, in whatever procedural fashion that can be accomplished, and if the Council interacted with Indian Country not only in large and more formal meetings, but also through smaller, less formal meetings, with specific Indian Country constituencies, such as the South and Eastern Tribes, in order to facilitate communication and enhance decision making; 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 that the White House Council on Native American Affairs establish a procedure for placing Tribal Leaders on the Council in a capacity more formal than that of advisors; and be it further

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that the Council include in its consultation methodology not only large and more formal meetings, but also smaller less formal meetings, with specific Indian Country constituencies such as the South and Eastern Tribes, in order to facilitate communication and enhance decision making; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors has delegated Kirk Francis, Chief, Penobscot Indian Nation, as its primary 2013 White House Tribal Nation Conference Regional representative and Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Chairwoman, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), as its alternate; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors has identified the following topics as priorities for in-depth discussion at the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference:

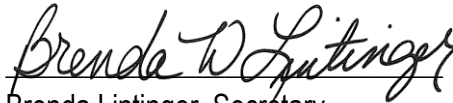
1. Carcieri;
2. Budget and Taxation;
3. Nation-to-Nation Relations.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, NC, on Thursday, October 31, 2013.



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



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

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*