



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2014:016

PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF USET TRIBES TO CONDUCT GAMING ON TRIBAL LANDS

- 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,** each USET Tribe is a sovereign Indian nation with jurisdiction over its federally recognized territory and reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** most USET Tribes have the right, as sovereign governments and pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), to conduct Class III gaming anywhere within their reservation or territory; and
- WHEREAS,** certain gaming Tribes, in order to eliminate competition, have sought to constrain the ability of neighboring nations to conduct Class III gaming on their lands by obtaining from the state government a promise of "geographic exclusivity" pursuant to which the state agrees to not allow any Class III gaming on all or a portion of the lands of such neighboring Indian nations; and
- WHEREAS,** such agreements blatantly infringe upon the sovereign rights of neighboring Indian nations and abrogate a state government's statutory obligation, under IGRA, to negotiate, in good faith, a Class III compact with any resident Indian nation that desires to conduct Class III gaming anywhere within such nation's borders; and
- WHEREAS,** USET, in multiple resolutions dating back to 1997, has categorically opposed the efforts of one Indian nation to conduct gaming on the sovereign land of another nation or otherwise interfere with or impair the rights of such nation to exercise sovereign control over its lands or pursue any lawful economic activity thereon; 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 unalterably opposes the efforts of any Indian nation or state government to limit or otherwise impair the ability of any other Indian nation to conduct any lawful activity, including Class III gaming, on such other Indian nation's reservation or territory; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges: (i) the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Indian Gaming Commission to oppose, and withhold approval of, any agreement or other arrangement

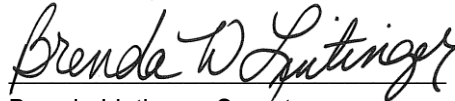
that purports to grant Class III geographic exclusivity to one Indian nation over any territory of another Indian nation, and (ii) the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Indian Gaming Commission to formally adopt policies and procedures barring such agreements and arrangements and take all steps necessary to preserve each Indian nation's ability to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over its lands and conduct any lawful activity thereon.

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”