



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2014:023

SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF NATIVE AFFAIRS AND POLICY FOR ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS TO ALLOW CONTINUED TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, OUTREACH, AND CONSULTATION WITH TRIBAL NATIONS

- 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 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) established the Office of Native Affairs and Policy (FCC-ONAP) to meaningfully engage with Tribal Nations on a government-to-government basis to address the dire nature and deep void of communications services on Tribal Lands; and
- WHEREAS,** since its establishment, the FCC-ONAP has consulted with Tribal Nations across the United States resulting in the most comprehensive engagement of Tribal Nations on the deployment and adoption of communications services on Tribal Lands; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal engagement and consultation by the FCC-ONAP has resulted in rules that include Tribal Nations in the National Broadband Plan, the Connect America Fund and Tribal Mobility Fund, reforms to the Lifeline and Link Up Programs, other universal service reforms, and further rulemakings; and
- WHEREAS,** since it was established, the FCC-ONAP has assisted Tribal Nations by ensuring that their voices are included and present in all relevant FCC proceedings and initiatives; and
- WHEREAS,** the FCC-ONAP does not have an annual dedicated budget and this in turn results in a heightened level of uncertainty as to whether the FCC's engagement with Tribal Nations will continue on critical, current and pressing communications matters; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has a positive working history with the FCC and FCC-ONAP to identify challenges to Indian Country telecommunications and preservation of historic and sacred sites, develop solutions to these challenges, and assemble resources and develop policy to promote the rebuilding and strengthening of Tribal Nations; 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 the United States Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to prioritize and fully fund the Federal Communications

Commission Office of Native Affairs and Policy on a dedicated and annual basis so that it will continue the progress of its important work in engaging Tribal Nations on current and critical communications issues; therefore, be it further

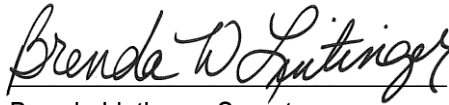
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests the Federal Communications Commission to dedicate \$2 million annually to the Federal Communications Commission Office of Native Affairs and Policy budget in support of Tribal outreach, training, and consultation with Tribal Nations.

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”