



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2013:020

SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL AMENDMENTS IN THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT

- 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,** USET member Tribes are working for the best interest of their Tribal Governments, and their citizens, to protect, promote, and enhance opportunities for their people; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) women suffer from violent crime at a rate three-and-a-half times greater than the national average, and nearly 40 percent of all AI/AN women will experience domestic violence, one in three AI/AN women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime, 17 percent of AI/AN women are stalked each year, twice that of other populations, and the murder rate of AI/AN women is ten times the national average; and
- WHEREAS,** the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA), expired on September 30, 2011, and contains provisions that are critical to all AI/AN Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** these provisions provide critical resources and tools to Indian Tribes to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking; and
- WHEREAS,** Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) have introduced S. 47, bipartisan legislation that would reauthorize the VAWA and strengthen protections for Native women, including the following: recognition of concurrent Tribal misdemeanor criminal jurisdiction to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence both Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses, intimate partners, or dating partners, or who violate protection orders in Indian Country; clarification of Tribal court authority to issue an order of protection over all persons, improvement of the ability of Tribes to respond to sex trafficking; and provisions to create stronger accountability, coordination and consultation with federal agencies investigating and prosecuting violent crimes against women; and
- WHEREAS,** Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI) has introduced H.R. 11, legislation that closely follows the Leahy-Crapo VAWA bill; and
- WHEREAS,** during the last Congress, Congressmen Darrel Issa (R-CA) and Tom Cole (R-OK) introduced a VAWA bill that also would recognize Tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians and would allow a non-Indian criminal defendant to seek removal to federal court upon a showing of cause that the Tribal justice system is not protecting his constitutional rights; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors hereby supports the VAWA reauthorization amendments and legislative proposals designed to enhance Tribal sovereignty and services to increase the safety of American Indian/Alaska Native women that are contained within S.47 and H.R. 11; and, be it further

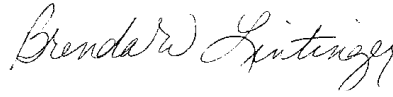
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors hereby supports the efforts of Congressmen Issa and Cole to find a pro-sovereignty legislative solution in the House; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the United States Congress to send to the President a strong bipartisan Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill to increase the safety of American Indian/Alaska Native women and all vulnerable victims; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges its member Tribes to pass similar resolutions that support the Violence Against Women Act.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 7, 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”