



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### USET Resolution No. 2013:021

#### PROPOSED ENCROACHMENT UPON THE CAYUGA NATION'S RESERVATION BY AN OUT-OF-STATE TRIBE


- 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 Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma (the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe) has a federally recognized reservation in the State of Oklahoma where it owns and operates a Class III gaming facility; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe has applied to take land into trust in the State of New York that is actually part of the federally recognized 64,000-acre reservation of the Cayuga Indian Nation (the Cayuga Nation) in Western and Central New York; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma previously requested that the federal government take this same land into trust and that request was summarily rejected on January 4, 2008 by the United States Department of the Interior (the Interior Department); and
- WHEREAS,** the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe has no recognized political or governmental authority in the State of New York nor does it have any reservation or other land in New York over which it can legally exercise any sovereign rights or jurisdiction; and
- WHEREAS,** approval by the Interior Department of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe's new trust land application is not permitted under existing federal law and Interior Department guidelines and would result in the unlawful alienation of a portion of the Cayuga Nation's federally recognized reservation; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors unalterably opposes the efforts of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe to take land into trust in the State of New York; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Interior Department to: (i) promptly deny and reject the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe's pending request - as it rejected the previous one - to have the federal government hold land in trust in an area located within the boundaries of the Cayuga Nation's federally recognized reservation in Western and Central New York, and (ii) respect and protect the integrity of the Cayuga Nation's reservation at all times, as required by treaty and federal law.

**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”*