



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### USET Resolution No. 2013:022

#### THE FEE-TO-TRUST APPLICATIONS OF THE CAYUGA INDIAN NATION

- 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 Cayuga Nation is a sovereign Indian Nation, occupying and governing lands in Western and Central New York since before the creation of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** notwithstanding the express promises set forth in the Treaty of Canandaigua and the statutory obligations imposed by the Non-Intercourse Act (25 U.S.C. § 177), the State of New York and other parties misappropriated the Cayuga Nation's reservation lands and thereby deprived the Cayuga people of their ancestral homelands; and
- WHEREAS,** the federal court subsequently dismissed all claims made by the Cayuga Nation in its historic Land Claim litigation; and
- WHEREAS,** the *City of Sherrill* case specifically states that the "proper avenue" for creating and securing a Cayuga homeland is the federal land-into-trust process; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2005, the Cayuga Nation, pursuant to the Supreme Court's directive in the *City of Sherrill* case, applied to the federal government to place its reacquired lands in trust; and
- WHEREAS,** the Cayuga Nation's trust land applications have been pending at the United States Department of Interior (the Department) for over seven years even though the Department has acknowledged that the applications are complete and has not identified any reason why they should not be approved; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges the United States Department of Interior to expeditiously approve the Cayuga Nation's fee-to-trust applications in their entirety and thereby fulfill its treaty commitments and promises to, and secure homeland for, the Cayuga people, in recognition of the trust obligation the United States owes to all Indian Nations in general and the moral and treaty obligations it owes the Cayuga Nation in particular.

**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”*