



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2013:28

URGING CONGRESS TO HONOR THE TRUST RESPONSIBILITY BY HOLDING HARMLESS FEDERAL INDIAN PROGRAMS FROM THE EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION

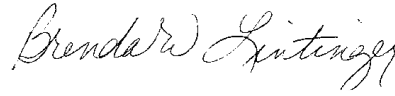
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the automatic across-the-board cuts of certain domestic and defense discretionary programs, including federal Indian programs, provided for under the Budget Control Act of 2011, as amended, are scheduled to go into effect on March 1, 2013; and
- WHEREAS,** the Office of Management and Budget has reported that cuts for Fiscal Year 2013 for federal Indian Programs, including the Indian Health Service, could be as high as 8.2 percent; and
- WHEREAS,** federal Indian program funding is not discretionary funding, but rather is a funding obligation of the United States to Tribes based on the trust obligation, treaties, laws, court cases and many other commitments; and
- WHEREAS,** notwithstanding its obligation, the United States has always underfunded federal Indian programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the effects of sequestration would devastate Tribes and Native communities, which are more reliant on federal resources than most communities and which suffer from higher rates of poverty; and
- WHEREAS,** as Tribes have contributed more to the well-being of the United States through enormous land cessions, often under duress, the most appropriate policy would be for federal Indian programs to receive an increase that factors in inflation and population growth and should be exempted from sequestration; and
- WHEREAS,** the budget situation is so dire that the USET board deems it appropriate in the national interest to not seek an increase in federal funding to Indian programs, but still believes that these programs should be held harmless from sequestration; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges both parties in Congress to come together in a spirit of compromise, as well as joint commitment to fiscal responsibility, to develop a budget revenue and expenditure plan that will assure the long-term prosperity of America, while meeting the federal government's obligations to Tribes; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges Congress to uphold the trust responsibility and recognize the long-term contributions of Tribes and Native peoples to America's success by holding federal Indian programs harmless from sequestration.

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”