



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2013:031

REQUESTING PRESIDENT OBAMA TO ISSUE A NATIVE SOVEREIGN NATIONS POLICY STATEMENT, SPECIAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON NATIVE NATIONS, EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ESTABLISH NATIVE NATIONS POLICY COUNCIL AND TO PROMOTE LEGISLATION CODIFYING THE NATIVE NATIONS POLICY

- 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,** President Obama pledged to promote Indian sovereignty, government-to-government relations, and honor Tribal self-government, and in his first term has worked to fulfill those pledges through his annual White House Meetings, the Keeps Eagle, Cobell and Tribal government trust fund settlements, Indian Health Care Reauthorization, approval of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and many other initiatives; and
- WHEREAS,** President Obama's re-election to a second term as President creates an important opportunity for Indian Tribes to receive the recognition that Indian Tribes, as Native Nations, deserve from the United States in accordance with its Constitution, treaties, and laws; 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 does hereby call upon President Obama to issue a Native Nations Policy Statement and an implementing Executive Order setting forth the following:
- NATIVE NATIONS:** The status of Indian Tribes as Native Nations endowed with inherent sovereign authority over our citizens and our territory;
- THE CONSTITUTION:** The Constitution's recognition of Indian sovereignty and the bi-lateral government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian Tribes;
- TREATIES, SOVEREIGNTY, MUTUAL CONSENT:** A policy direction to all Departments and Agencies to respect and adhere to Indian treaties and treaties protecting Indian rights, including, but not limited to, the 1803 Louisiana Purchase Treaty, the Jay Treaty, the Treaty of Ghent and the 1867 Russian Treaty of Cession for Alaska; to respect and defer to Indian sovereignty; and to deal with Indian Tribes based upon mutual recognition, mutual respect, and mutual consent;
- FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY:** A policy direction to all Departments and Agencies reaffirming the United States' trust responsibility to Indian Tribes, Indian lands, and Indian people;

U.N. DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: A policy direction to all Departments and Agencies to adhere to the fundamental principles of respect for indigenous rights set forth in the U.N. Declaration; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon President Obama to issue a Special Message to Congress calling for legislation to:

REAFFIRM TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY over all crimes on Indian lands, including violence against women, for the protection of our citizens and the public generally;

REAFFIRM TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TAX STATUS to stop the intrusion of the IRS on Tribal self-government, the governmental relationship between Tribal governments and our citizens, including the taxation of Tribal government services to our citizens; and to pre-empt state tax laws on Indian people, Indian property, and Indian lands;

REAUTHORIZE INDIAN PROGRAMS where necessary, including Health, Education, Energy, and Housing, authorize agencies to streamline administration and consolidate programs for which our Tribal governments are eligible and expand our contracting opportunities for Tribal governments to perform Federal functions and programs;

REVITALIZE INDIAN ECONOMIES by creating free enterprise and commerce zones on Indian lands; creating new job training programs and economic development grants; and facilitating competitive bank lending and finance on Indian lands;

REAFFIRM TRIBAL JURISDICTION OVER RESERVATION COMMERCE by pre-empting state taxation and regulation of reservation generated value, Indian commerce, Indian lands, natural resources, and property; affirm Tribal government jurisdiction to regulate commerce on Indian reservations and Indian lands; and

AUTHORIZE MULTI-AGENCY MASTER CONTRACTS by authorizing Federal agencies to enter into multi-agency, master self-governance and self-determination contracts with Indian Tribes to provide comprehensive Federal and Tribal governmental services on Indian reservations and Indian lands through Federal delegations of authority and cross-deputization of Tribal authorities; grant authority to Federal agencies to waive non-essential and redundant agency rules and regulations and ease administrative burdens in furtherance of multi-agency, master contracts; and provide direct, block funding through multi-agency, master self-governance contracts and continue effective agency funding, such as Community Service Block Grants, and be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon President Obama to establish a new Native Nations Policy Council on Indian Sovereignty, Education, Economic Development, and Jobs chaired by the Vice President and including the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Education, HHS, HUD, Justice, Labor, Transportation, the SBA Administrator, and an elected Tribal leader from each of twelve (12) Indian Tribes representative of the various regions of Indian Country; and, be it further

“Because there is strength in Unity”

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon President Obama to call upon Congress for legislation to codify the Native Nations Policy in Title 5 of the United States Code to guide Federal agencies in their work with Indian Tribes; and, be it further

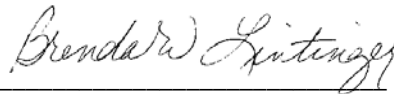
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon the National Congress of American Indians, the National Indian Gaming Association and other National Indian Policy organizations to advocate with the Obama Administration to undertake the above referenced initiatives.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Niagara Falls, NY, on Thursday, May 16, 2013.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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