



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2014:034

URGING AN AMENDMENT TO THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT REAUTHORIZATION TO ENSURE ITS APPLICABILITY TO ALL TRIBES

- 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 113th Congress reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, with very important Tribal provisions that among other things authorized Tribal governments in certain circumstances to exercise criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian domestic violence offenders; and
- WHEREAS,** this legislative accomplishment was hailed as a major advance for all Indian Tribes in their efforts to address the existing jurisdictional gap on Tribal lands that had allowed domestic violence offenders to act with impunity; and
- WHEREAS,** certain USET Tribes are subject to restrictive settlement acts that their respective States interpret as preventing the application of many Federal Indian laws unless Congress has specifically authorized the application of such laws to those Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** if these States succeed at advancing their interpretation, these Tribes would be excluded from the benefit of these laws in general, and of the jurisdictional provisions in the Violence Against Women Act in particular; and
- WHEREAS,** it is fundamentally wrong that important Federal legislation intended to address the tragic circumstances of domestic violence victims in Indian Country should not be applicable to all federally recognized Tribes; 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 calls upon Congress to amend the Violence Against Women Act or otherwise clarify that "notwithstanding any law to the contrary" including any language in restrictive settlement acts, that all the Tribal provisions of the Violence Against Women Act apply to all federally recognized Tribes; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the United States Congress to clarify that laws of general applicability to Indian Tribes adopted after the passage of a restrictive settlement act apply to all

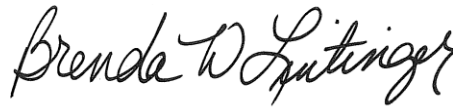
federally recognized Tribes including those Tribes that were the subject of restrictive settlement acts.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 6, 2014.



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”