



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2009:017

SUPPORT OF THE CATAWBA INDIAN NATION

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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 Catawba Indian Nation is a member of USET and has been a federally recognized Tribe since passage of the Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993, which incorporated a Settlement Agreement between and among the United States and the State of South Carolina and Congress; and
- WHEREAS,** the Settlement Agreement reached between the United States, the State of South Carolina and the Catawba Indian Nation was concluded under great pressure and does not reflect the best interests of the Catawba Indian Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Settlement Agreement was intended to afford the Catawba Indian Nation the opportunity to develop a sound and self-sustaining economy, but actions by the State of South Carolina have undermined that intent; and
- WHEREAS,** evidence of the unfairness of the agreement and its implementation can be found in the failure of the Catawba Indian Nation's gaming operations and in the imposition of a fee on Catawba children attending local public schools; and
- WHEREAS,** the Catawba Indian Nation does not have the rights and responsibilities under Federal law commonly recognized for other Tribal Nations and, therefore, the Catawba essentially have a second-class form of Tribal sovereignty; therefore,
be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly supports the Catawba Indian Nation in its efforts to petition the State of South Carolina and the United States Government for a redress of these grievances through amendment of Federal law, state law and the Settlement Agreement, as appropriate.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 12, 2009.



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



Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"