



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### USET Resolution No. 2014:053

#### CALLING UPON THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO FORGE STRONGER GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- 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,** Indian Tribes hold a unique status in the United States (U.S.) with the rights and benefits of sovereign governments; and
- WHEREAS,** this relationship has underpinnings in the U.S. Constitution, specifically, the Indian Commerce Clause, the Treaty Clause and the Supremacy Clause, and in numerous treaties, laws and agreements between the U.S. and Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. has a trust obligation to Tribes that includes the responsibility to promote and support the development of prosperous and resilient Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** there is often a lack of strong, meaningful dialogue and relations between Tribal, State, local, and county governments which prevents Indian Tribes and their respective communities from prospering and growing to their full potential; and
- WHEREAS,** stronger and more meaningful relations between these government structures are necessary to achieve the goals of the five priority areas as outlined by the White House Council on Native American Affairs: (1) Promoting sustainable economic development, (2) Supporting greater access to and control over healthcare, (3) Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Tribal justice systems, (4) Expanding and improving educational opportunities for Native American Youth, and (5) Protecting and supporting the sustainable management of Native lands, environments, and natural resources; and
- WHEREAS,** a more focused, dedicated, and coordinated relationship amongst Tribal, State, local, and county governments would lead to greater mutual understanding, awareness, cooperation, and potential partnerships; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the U.S. 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 the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement to convene a series of meetings amongst leaders from these respective governments to discuss our many issues of mutual concern; and, be it further

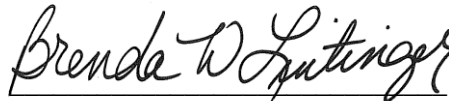
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement to create a Tribal, State, Local, and County Task Force, similar to the Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, which would serve to address the many social and economic issues that are important to our communities in an effort to inform the President and the White House Council on Native American Affairs to ensure that the sovereignty rights of Indian Tribes are recognized, honored, and protected.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Bar Harbor, ME, June 4, 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”*