



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2015:008

CALLING ON THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL FUNDING PROCESS TO HIRE TRIBAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

- 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 Tribal Justice Committee provides a means for all Tribes to bring forth issues that affect our communities, information exchange and as a forum for discussion of jurisdictional issues; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Justice Committee maintains a commitment to both criminal and civil Tribal justice issues, and reflects participation of Tribal law enforcement and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in addressing these issues; and
- WHEREAS,** over the years, Tribal communities from across the nation have highlighted the serious effects illegal drugs are having on our communities, including the high birth rate of drug addicted babies and the high number of deaths of Tribal members due to drug overdoses and drug related suicide; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Leaders have emphasized that the current lack of resources for law enforcement on Indian lands to address this drug epidemic poses a direct threat to Native citizens and the future of Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** under the authority provided by 25 CFR §2802, which implements Public Law 101-379, the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Justice Services (OJS) has the responsibility to provide law enforcement services in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** under 25 CFR §2802 this responsibility includes: to cooperate with appropriate Federal and Tribal law enforcement agencies in the investigation of offenses against criminal laws of the United States, to develop methods and expertise to resolve conflicts and solve crimes, to provide criminal justice remedial actions, and to reduce recidivism and adverse social effects; and
- WHEREAS,** the current structure of the BIA law enforcement drug program is divided into regions; and
- WHEREAS,** USET Tribes reside in the Eastern region, which also includes more than 100 Tribes in multiple states, with only seven (7) agents to investigate and provide services to these Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** according to the National Drug Control Policy report of 2009, among all ethnic groups, American Indian and Alaska Natives age 12 years and older have the highest percentage (18.3%) of illegal

drug use in the past 30 days, which is a glaring fact that shows that the drug enforcement approach in Indian Country is failing; 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

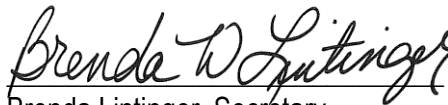
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls on the United States Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to change their drug enforcement strategies so that funding is allocated to hire Tribal Drug Enforcement Agents to work collaboratively with appropriate drug enforcement agencies identified by individual Tribes, to investigate, enforce, and reduce the illegal drugs that are being trafficked into Tribal communities.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY on Thursday, December 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”