



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2016:012

AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nation's leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Office administers the Rural Business Development Grant Program (RBDG), which provides competitive grant funding designed to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Committee has requested a revolving loan fund be developed to help USET member Indian-owned businesses and Indian entrepreneurs gain access to capital and build credit so they may improve Tribal economies, create employment opportunities, and promote economic growth; and
- WHEREAS,** there is a need to establish a business plan for the loan fund and supporting policies to successfully administer the lending program; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Economic Development Department will utilize RBDG funding to create marketing studies, a business plan, and lending policies, which have been legally reviewed; and
- WHEREAS,** the creation of a revolving loan fund to benefit Indian-owned businesses in the USET Region and for its member Tribal Nations is an activity supported by the organization's strategic plan; and
- WHEREAS,** this grant proposal meets the USET goals and objectives "to lift the bitter yoke of poverty from our people through cooperative effort," and "to dedicate ourselves to improvement of the quality of life of American Indians through increased health, education, social services, and housing opportunities;" 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 authorizes the USET Executive Director to submit a proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development under the Rural Business Development Grant Program seeking financial support to create a business plan and policy for

administering a revolving loan fund to create opportunities for Indian-owned businesses and entrepreneurs to gain access to capital and credit and commit any necessary resources to meet the non-federal matching contributions requirements; and, be it further

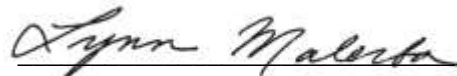
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors approves and supports the application submission to United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development under the Rural Business Development Grant Program for the next grant cycle in Fiscal Year 2016.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS on October 28, 2015.



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



Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”