



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### **USET Resolution No. 2016:016**

## **OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS GRANTING NEW RIGHTS TO REMOVED OR RELOCATED TRIBES THAT IMPEDE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF TRIBES THAT WERE NOT REMOVED**


- 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 are sovereigns that pre-date the United States, with prior and treaty protected rights to self-government and to our Indian lands; and
- WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the United States, through the Treaty, Commerce, and Apportionment Clauses and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, recognizes the sovereign status of Indian Tribes as Native nations established prior to the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** before the formation of the United States, Indian Nations were independent sovereign nations and it is the policy of the United States to support self-determination, self-governance, and self-sufficiency as set forth in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 as amended, the Self-Governance Act, and other federal laws; and
- WHEREAS,** Members of Congress have introduced legislation to address the *Carcieri* decision, restore certainty to the land to trust process, and/or reaffirm the status of Indian lands; and
- WHEREAS,** any legislative efforts to amend trust land legislation to grant new rights to tribes removed or relocated from their ancestral homelands that would allow removed or relocated tribes to dictate how other tribes use their trust lands would undermine tribal sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS,** the legislative proposal could establish a means of taking existing Indian trust lands out of trust against the wishes of the tribe for whom the land was placed into trust, setting a dangerous precedent for all of Indian country; 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** that the USET Board of Directors opposes any legislative efforts that would grant new rights to removed or relocated tribes that would allow them to diminish the sovereignty of other tribes by dictating how these other tribes use their trust lands.

**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”*