



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2016:025

REQUEST FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT TRIBAL CITIZEN DIRECTOR OF TRIBAL RELATIONS POSITION WITHIN THE GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

- WHEREAS,** USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and,
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF 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,** on April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill began with the explosion and collapse of the BP operated Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in the tragic loss of eleven lives and injuries of seventeen workers, and became the largest accidental oil spill in the petroleum industry and one of the greatest ecological disasters in modern times; and,
- WHEREAS,** in response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, in July 6, 2012, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act) established the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, which is comprised of governors from the five affected Gulf States, the Secretaries from the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and Homeland Security as well as the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and,
- WHEREAS,** eleven Federally Recognized American Indian Coastal Tribal Nations that were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Disaster were omitted from official representation on the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council by the RESTORE Act; nine of the eleven Tribes being USET member Tribal Nations; and,
- WHEREAS,** through a series of Tribal engagement meetings initiated by the coastal Tribes, with the administrative staff of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, Tribal representation and consultation needs are being addressed with the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council administrative staff; and,
- WHEREAS,** one of the positive outcomes of these Tribal engagement meetings was the creation of a temporary Director of Tribal Relations position by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council administrative staff to facilitate Tribal engagement; and,
- WHEREAS,** the current Director of Tribal Relations position is presently occupied by an agency employee who was temporarily detailed to this work; and,
- WHEREAS,** given the multi-generational nature of RESTORE projects and the need for consistency in positive Tribal relations, need for the establishment of a permanent, full-time Director of Tribal

Relations position, to be filled by a Tribal citizen, within the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council administrative staff is evident; 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

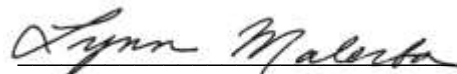
RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors requests the establishment of a permanent, full-time Director of Tribal Relations position, to be filled by a Tribal citizen, within the administrative staff of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 11, 2016.



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”