



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2017 SPF:017

REQUESTING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO EXEMPT INDIAN COUNTRY FROM THE FEDERAL HIRING FREEZE AND CONSULT WITH TRIBES ON IMPACTS OF HIRING FREEZE

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes 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 Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** a unique government-to-government relationship exists between Indian Tribes and the Federal Government and is grounded in the U.S. Constitution, numerous treaties, statutes, Federal case law, regulations and executive orders that establish and define a trust relationship with Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** in furtherance of the federal trust responsibility, the federal government funds and administers a number of programs through various federal departments including but not limited to Interior, Health and Human Services, Justice, and Agriculture, that either directly or indirectly provide critically needed services to Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** on January 23, 2017, President Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum that ordered a freeze on the hiring of Federal civilian employees to be applied across the board in the executive branch; and
- WHEREAS,** the hiring freeze permits the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to "grant exemptions from this freeze where those exemptions are otherwise necessary" as well as the "head of any executive department or agency... [to] exempt from the hiring freeze any positions that it deems necessary to meet national security or public safety responsibilities"; and
- WHEREAS,** the hiring freeze poses a substantial risk to public safety and public health throughout Indian Country and tribal citizens will be forced to bear a disproportionate share of this freeze, which will bring foreseeable disastrous results to Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S., through various forms of legal and political actions, further defined the federal trust responsibility and required meaningful consultation with Indian Tribes when any federal action affects one or more Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the hiring freeze was enacted and implemented without any such consultation with Indian Tribes; 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 maintain that the enactment and implementation of the hiring freeze without any consultation with Indian Tribes, was and continues to be inconsistent with the Federal Governments special relationship with Indian Tribes and is considered a violation of the federal trust responsibility to Indian Tribes; and, be it further

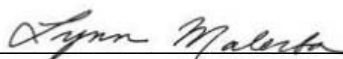
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon the United States President, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the heads of all executive departments and agencies to exempt Indian Country programs and positions from the hiring freeze to avoid a substantial risk to public safety and public health.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 9, 2017.



 Chief Kirk Francis, Sr., President
 United South and Eastern Tribes
 Sovereignty Protection Fund



 Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
 United South and Eastern Tribes
 Sovereignty Protection Fund