

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. 91-22

USET SUPPORT FOR S. 1315, THE INDIAN FEDERAL RECOGNITION
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT OF 1991

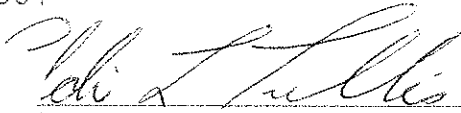
- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of nineteen (19) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET, Inc. Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS, the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution vests the power of recognition of Indian tribes with the Congress, a power which, over the years, the courts have ruled may also be exercised by the Executive Branch of the government; and
- WHEREAS, in 1978, at the urging of the Congress, Indian groups, and the American Indian Policy Review Commission, the Secretary of the Interior promulgated regulations establishing criteria and procedures for the federal recognition of Indian tribes; and
- WHEREAS, since 1978, the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs has held oversight hearings on Interior's handling of the federal recognition process, and has found that the process is costly for petitioners, inadequately staffed, and somewhat arbitrary; and
- WHEREAS, Senator John McCain has introduced (and Senators Thad Cochran and Daniel K. Inouye co-sponsored) S. 1315, the Indian Federal Recognition Administrative Procedures Act of 1991, which would establish a Commission on Indian Recognition to review petitions submitted by Indian groups for federal recognition, sets timeliness for the review and decision process, provides for appeals of adverse decisions, provides for increased funding for the process, and provides an end date certain by which time all Indian groups must have filed a petition for recognition; and
- WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the USET member tribes that a fair, impartial, strong, and efficient process be established for federal recognition of Indian groups, that the process be open to all groups seeking such recognition, and that a final end date be established so that federal recognition can be established nationwide once and for all;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the USET Board does hereby express its support for S. 1315, and does hereby authorize the Executive Director to take such actions as are appropriate to express organizational support for S. 1315 with decision-makers and the public; and

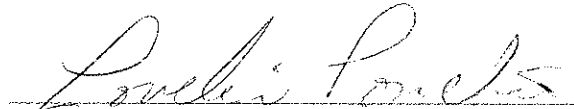
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USET Board does hereby encourage Senators McCain, Cochran, and Inouye to work with the executive branch in determining if the creation of an independent commission is essential to establishment of a fair and uniform federal recognition process, or if such process could be implemented fairly and uniformly within the Department of the Interior.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Board of Directors Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Lafayette, Louisiana, on November 13, 1991



Eddie L. Tullis, President
United South and Eastern
Tribes, Inc.



Lovelin Poncho, Secretary
United South and Eastern
Tribes, Inc.