



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. 94-26-DC

"CRIME BILL"

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON INDIAN TRIBES AND INDIAN PEOPLE

- WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-one (21) 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,** legislation is pending in the Congress generally referred to as the "Crime Bill"; and
- WHEREAS,** various pending crime bills propose to implement a 'three strikes you're out' policy of sentencing as well as a provision to allow 13-17 year old offenders, who commit certain crimes, to be tried as adults; and
- WHEREAS,** since this is federal legislation, the scope of authority of the bill is therefore limited to federal crimes; and
- WHEREAS,** simply because of the status of Indian reservations being located on federal lands, these bills, if not amended, may end up almost exclusively affecting Indian people, a group who are clearly not the intended target of these various provisions, and, not affecting the intended target, presumably urban youth gang members; and
- WHEREAS,** under the language presently contained in the bill, it is entirely conceivable that two people could commit the identical same three crimes across the street from each other, but, if one was an Indian on a federal reservation, he or she would go to jail for life without parole whereas the person committing the same (non-federal) crimes on state, county or city lands would be sentenced at the discretion of a judge and jury; and

"Because there is strength in Unity"

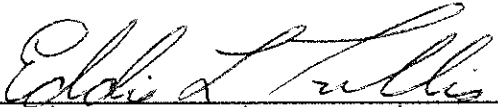
USET RESOLUTION 94-26-DC

WHEREAS, Indian people would therefore be disproportionately and unfairly affected by this legislation.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USET, Inc. Board of Directors does hereby urge the Congress of the United States to examine this extremely important matter and amend the legislation in such a manner as to ensure that there is no disproportionate impact on Indian tribes and Indian people living on reservation lands.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Washington Impact Week meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, D.C., on February 24, 1994.



Eddie L. Tullis, President
USET, Inc.



Keller George, Secretary
USET, Inc.