



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

RESOLUTION 11/94-27FL

SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

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, tribal Self-Governance compacts, authorized by Title III of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1973, as amended, provide for reinforcement of the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and tribal governments by providing direct funding for either Bureau of Indian Affairs programs or Indian Health Service programs on an annualized basis, without the tribal governments having to necessarily conform to the requirements of the BIA and IHS bureaucracies; and

WHEREAS, two member-tribes of USET, Inc., the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Penobscot Tribe of ME, have approved self-governance compacts for the provision of health services to Tribal members formerly administered by the IHS; and

WHEREAS, the experience of these two member tribes in negotiating their compacts has been that some IHS staff, and the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering staff in particular, at the area and headquarters levels, do not subscribe to the concept of tribal self-governance, and have actively discouraged tribal compacts through seeking to limit tribal shares by designating large amounts of IHS resources as residual and through seeking to convince non-compacting tribes that they will suffer adverse financial impact because other tribes are compacting; and

WHEREAS, IHS as a whole has not been responsive to compacting tribes' needs in the area of contract support costs which IHS is now maintaining it does not have funds available to cover, despite the fact that payment of such costs is guaranteed by statute and in each tribal compact.

"Because there is strength in Unity"

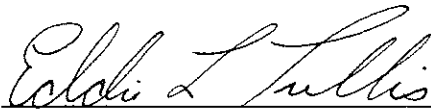
USET RESOLUTION No. 11/94-27FL

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. does hereby:

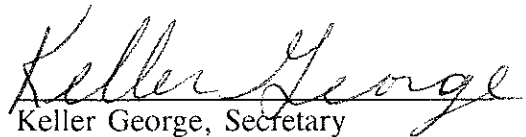
- 1) Express its support for the concept of tribal self-governance authorized by Title III, reinforcing the government-to-government relationship; and
- 2) Express its support for each member-tribe of USET right to pursue a self-governance compact and to make its own decision on whether to pursue a compact on an internal basis; and
- 3) Urge member-tribes to resist attempts by IHS staff to convince tribal officials and staff that self-governance compacts pursued by other tribes will have adverse effects on their tribe; and
- 4) Encourage member-tribes to advise the IHS to thoroughly train IHS staff in the legislative history of the self-governance legislation and to institute safeguards within the IHS organization to assure that distortions of the intention of the legislation and its practical application are not carried out by IHS staff, and that all of the intentions of the Congress are followed in implementation of the legislation by the IHS; and
- 5) Strongly encourage the Indian Health Service to both request the Congress for appropriations sufficient to support the Self-Governance process, and to trim IHS operations including the reduction of unnecessary administrative programs and staff reductions in force to make funding available at the local level.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Annual Board of Directors meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Tampa, Florida, on November 10, 1994.



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



Keller George, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.