



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

Resolution No. USET 97:07

**SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY
REPEAL OF CHAFEE RIDER (SEC. 330 TO PUB.L. 104-208)**

- WHEREAS,** The United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) 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,** USET recognizes that all tribes stand on an equal footing with each other and are entitled to the privileges and immunities available to other federally recognized entities by virtue of the “government-to-government” relationship with the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** The action of the 104th Congress in passing, and the President signing into law the 1997 Omnibus Appropriations bill (Pub.Law 104-208), which included a non-germane rider by Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island which, in violation of Senate procedures for full, open and public debate, and further violating the government-to-government relationship between the United States and sovereign Indian tribes, requiring meaningful consultation, stripped the Narragansett Indian Tribe of their rights by removing them from national legislation (the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), the intent of which is to benefit all Indian tribes, requires the strongest condemnation; and
- WHEREAS,** Indian tribes and their members throughout the country have benefited from the revenues generated by gaming conducted under IGRA to fund tribal government operations to provide needed health care, housing, education, jobs and a variety of social services to tribal members at a time of decreasing federal appropriations; and
- WHEREAS,** The Narragansett Tribe successfully defended, in federal court, its right to conduct gaming on its federal trust lands (settlement lands) near Charlestown, Rhode Island, under IGRA, against challenge by Rhode Island; and

“Because there is strength in Unity”

(USET 97:07)

WHEREAS, Senator John Chafee, bypassing the authorizing committee, without a hearing, without floor debate in either the House or Senate, without consultation or input from the Tribe, after failing to attach his rider to the FY 1997 Interior Appropriations bill, attached the non-germane rider to the FY 1997 Omnibus Appropriations bill which deprived the Tribe its inherent sovereign rights to govern its lands by stripping the Narragansett Tribe from IGRA holding that the Tribe's settlement lands "shall not be treated as Indian lands" for purposes of gaming; and

WHEREAS, Section 330 of the FY1997 Omnibus Appropriations Act (Pub.L. 104-208), violates the sovereign relationship which exists among our nations, and represents a dangerous precedent to the further erosion of Tribal Sovereignty for *all tribes* which others in Congress may attempt to emulate, and is an attack upon *every* tribe's sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, A guiding principle of USET is that member tribes must be unified and support one another for the benefit of *all* tribes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. condemns, in the strongest terms possible, and demands the repeal of the Chafee amendment which strips a sovereign tribe of its rights established under Federal law and represents a gross violation of the government-to-government relationship between our nations; and

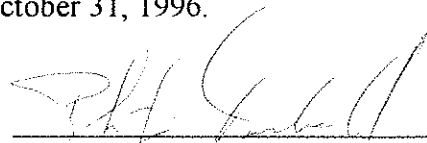
RESOLVED, That the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. hereby directs President Keller George to write President Clinton to request his active support to repeal the Chafee rider and thereby honor his commitment made to *all* tribes to respect tribal sovereignty.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Board of Directors meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Myrtle Beach, SC on Thursday, October 31, 1996.



Keller George, President
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Philip Tarbell, Secretary
United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc.