



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

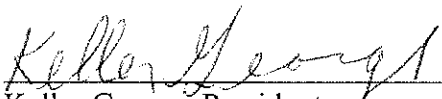
Resolution No. USET 98:20

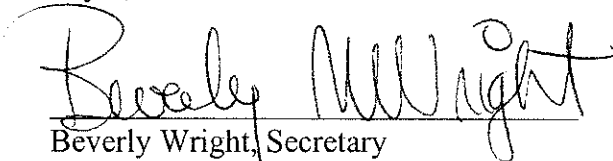
### OPPOSITION TO ISTOOK AMENDMENT

- WHEREAS**, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS**, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS**, the United States Congress last year considered, and is expected to once again take up, a proposal, sometimes referred to as the "Istook Amendment," that would prevent the Department of Interior from using appropriated funds to transfer additional land into trust unless the Indian nation, the state government and all affected municipalities have an agreement in place for the payment and collection of taxes on retail sales made on such trust land to non-Indians; and
- WHEREAS**, the Istook Amendment threatens the sovereignty of Indian nations and their treaty rights to the free use and enjoyment of their land; and
- WHEREAS**, the Istook Amendment, if enacted, would impair, if not completely thwart, the ability of Indian nations to hold lands in trust; and
- WHEREAS**, the Istook Amendment threatens: (1) sensitive discussions currently underway between several Indian nations and their respective state governments regarding the collection and payment of sales and excise taxes, and (2) existing and future tax and gaming compacts between Indian nations and state governments; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors unalterably opposes the Istook Amendment and all other threatened intrusions on Indian sovereignty and urges the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to reject this proposed legislation; be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors directs each of its member nations to communicate their opposition to the Istook Amendment to the elected officials representing the states where their reservations and territories are located; be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors directs the Taxation Committee to coordinate opposition to the Istook Amendment with other organizations engaged in the effort to defeat this detrimental legislative proposal, such as the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the annual USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, February 5, 1998.

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

  
Beverly Wright, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*