



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 99:40

THE ISTOOK PROPOSAL

- WHEREAS**, 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**, Congressman Istook (R-OK) has recently introduced legislation HR 1814 which, if enacted would require the U.S. Interior Department to remove tribal lands of a given Indian nations from trust status unless such nations, the state government and all affected municipalities have an agreement in place for the payment and collection of state taxes on retail sales made on such trust land to non-Indians; and
- WHEREAS**, HR 1814 threatens the sovereignty of Indian nations and their treaty rights to the free use and enjoyment of their land; and
- WHEREAS**, HR 1814, if enacted, would impair, if not completely thwart, the ability of Indian nations to hold lands in trust by effectively giving states veto power over land into trust applications; and
- WHEREAS**, HR 1814 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** the USET Board of Directors unalterably opposes HR 1814 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** the USET Board of Directors instructs each of its member nations to communicate their opposition to HR 1814 to the elected officials representing the states where their reservations and territories are located; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors instructs the Taxation and Legislation Committee to coordinate opposition to HR 1814 with other organizations engaged in the effort to defeat this pernicious legislative proposal, such as the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Miami, FL Thursday, June 17, 1999.

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

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

“Because there is strength in Unity”