



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2001: 052

**DENOUNCEMENT OF THE PROMULGATION OF PROPOSED
REGULATION 25 CFR PART 70**

- WHEREAS**, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) 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**, it is a core fundamental right of tribal sovereignty for individual tribes to determine who is American Indian and who can be enrolled as a member of their tribe; and
- WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is attempting to violate the individual tribal enrollment procedures and self-determination of tribes by proposing, in 25 CFR Part 70, Certification of Degree of American Indian/Alaskan Native Blood Proposed Regulations, that a government agency can better determine who is American Indian, by issuing or invalidating an applicant's American Indian status without contacting the tribes; and
- WHEREAS**, USET feels that the BIA consultation process has been inadequate and has failed to fully inform tribes of the potential negative impact on tribal sovereignty; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors recognizes this proposed regulation as a blatant attempt by the BIA to erode tribal sovereignty and limit the federal governments trust responsibilities; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors vehemently oppose the promulgation of proposed regulation 25 CFR Part 70, that would alter the tribes inherent sovereign right to determine who is of American Indian heritage and can be named as a member of a specific tribe.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 24, 2001.

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

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