



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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### USET Resolution No. 2002:045

#### PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES IMPACTED BY HYDROPOWER DAMS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal 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 is comprised of delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Congress is considering amendments to the Federal Power Act that give the hydropower industry greater standing than other interests including states, tribal governments and members of the public; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed amendments would adversely impact natural and cultural trust resources on tribal lands with hydropower dams; and
- WHEREAS,** there is Congressional support for the right of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal governments to receive fair market value for the use of tribal lands and the proposed amendments have the potential to undervalue those lands; and
- WHEREAS,** each agency of the federal government of the United States has a trust responsibility to protect and restore tribal trust resources and uphold treaties with AI/AN tribal governments; and
- WHEREAS,** tribal trust resources play a critical role in the preservation of the cultural heritage for all AI/AN tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed amendments may harm natural and cultural resources, diminish the ability of tribes to protect and restore natural and cultural resources, and diminish the ability of federal agencies with trust responsibilities to protect and restore natural and cultural resources; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors respectfully requests that Congress uphold the constitutional rights and legal authority of tribal governments by holding hearings regarding the proposed Federal Power Act amendments in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and House Committee on Resources, Water and Power Sub-Committees, respectively; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors directs the USET Executive Director to request Congressional hearings prior to taking action on the proposed Federal Power Act amendments on behalf of AI/AN tribal governments; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors be granted the opportunity to appoint a tribal leader to testify and have tribal concerns regarding the Federal Power Act amendments documented in the Congressional record; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that Congress require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to give tribes, and state/federal natural resource agencies the ability to impose interim conditions on annual license extensions; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that Congress appropriate funding needed by tribal governments to equitably participate with the state and federal resource agencies in the hydropower licensing process.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, January 31, 2002.



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Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



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Beverly M. Wright, Secretary

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.