



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2002:086

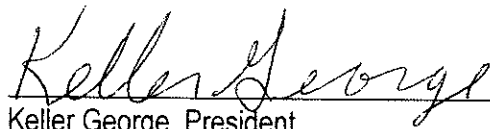
ENDORISING AND SUPPORTING THE SENECA NATION AND OTHER TRIBES ON RIGHT-OF-WAY ISSUES AND URGING THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO CHANGE THEIR POLICY ON ACCEPTING ROADS INTO THE IRR INVENTORY

- WHEREAS,** the 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 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Roads Program has imposed an unnecessary "policy" upon the Seneca Nation and other Tribes requiring BIA ownership of Indian Reservation Roads right-of-way for full-funding allocations; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seneca Nation and other Tribes in the Eastern Region and across Indian Country are opposed to this BIA policy which has a direct impact on and undermines Tribal sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS,** the BIA Policy on Right-of-Way does have direct impact on the Seneca Nation's and other tribes' control in regard to mobility, safety, and security for the integrity of Tribal communities and the well being of national security interests; and
- WHEREAS,** the BIA Roads staff has been unwilling to include into the National Indian Reservation Road (IRR) Inventory at a 100% funding level without any apparent legal basis, Tribal roads of the Seneca Nation and other Tribes where right-of-ways are retained by the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seneca Nation and other Tribes have Tribal roads that unquestionably meet the statutory "IRR" definition to be "a public road that is located within or provides access to an Indian reservation or Indian trust land"; and
- WHEREAS,** all Tribes in the Eastern Region have been historically under-funded and under-represented in the IRR Program due mostly to the lack of accurate and updated IRR inventories; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports and endorses the Seneca Nation and other Tribes in their sovereign right to maintain control of road right-of-ways within the boundaries of their Tribal lands; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges the Secretary of the Interior to assist in the fulfillment of the trust responsibility at all times and in a reasonable manner, and cooperate with the Seneca Nation and other Tribes for this purpose; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges the Secretary of the Interior to accept all of the Seneca Nation's tribal roads and other Tribal Nations roads which qualify on the BIA Road Inventory; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges the Secretary of the Interior to review the BIA policy on Road Inventory and make necessary changes to the policy allowing the Seneca Nation and **ALL TRIBES** the right to retain ownership of the right-of-ways within the road systems on their Tribal lands.

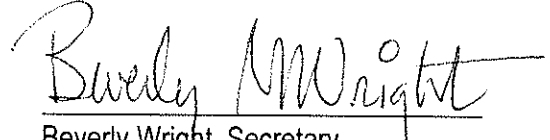
"Because there is strength in Unity"

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Nashville, TN, Thursday, June 13, 2002.



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



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