



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:014

TRIBAL JURISDICTION OVER LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 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 comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Constitution, treaties, and statutes of the United States acknowledge the sovereign status of Indian Tribes as governments with inherent authority over their members and their territory; and
- WHEREAS,** the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 pledges that "[t]he utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians, their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and in their property, rights and liberty, they never shall be invaded or disturbed;" and
- WHEREAS,** the authority to maintain public safety and preserve law and order is fundamental to any society and Indian Nations and Tribes possessed and exercised traditional law systems to maintain law and order from time immemorial; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States now exercises felony law enforcement jurisdiction and jurisdiction over crimes committed by non-Indians against Indians in most of Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act calls upon the Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General to cooperate with tribal law enforcement to ensure public safety and maintain law and order in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States ensures public safety and provides law enforcement services on Federal lands throughout the United States; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors call upon Congress to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General to give priority to public safety and law enforcement in Indian country; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors call upon Congress to further amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to direct the Secretary and the Attorney General to delegate full law enforcement authority to tribal police agencies so that tribal police officers may, when necessary, make felony arrests, issue misdemeanor violation notices and work with the U.S. Attorney's Offices to ensure that offenses in Indian Country are appropriately prioritized and prosecuted; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors call upon Congress to acknowledge in the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act that non-Indian offenders in Indian country may voluntarily submit to tribal court jurisdiction for any criminal offenses and may then be tried, prosecuted, and if convicted, punished by tribal authorities in accordance with the Indian Civil Rights Act.

"Because there is strength in Unity"

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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Board Meeting and EXPO, at which a quorum was present in Uncasville, CT, Thursday, October 31, 2002.



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



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