



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

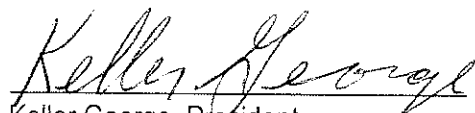
USET Resolution No. 2003:046

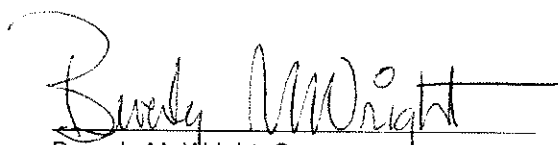
SUPPORT FOR USET TO FILE AN AMICUS BRIEF REGARDING THE INYO COUNTY v. BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE IN THE EFFORT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

- 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,** in recent years the U.S. Supreme Court has taken an extremely negative view of Tribal Sovereignty and jurisdiction in an attempt to diminish Tribal jurisdiction; and
- WHEREAS,** this attack on Tribal sovereignty and jurisdiction is well noted in the decisions of Nevada v. Hicks and Atkinson Trading Co. V. Shirley; and
- WHEREAS,** on December 2, 2002 the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review the case of Inyo County v. Bishop Paiute Tribe, a case that could further extend earlier precedents and directly threaten Tribal government sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS,** the decision in this case could set a dangerous precedent for Tribal governments, that would further the trend in recent U.S. Supreme Court cases, thus affecting the sovereignty of all Tribal nations; and
- WHEREAS,** USET tribes believe that there is "Strength In Unity," and we must work to counter these negative decisions before Tribal Sovereignty is totally eroded away; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation of Indians, a USET member Tribe in good standing, has offered to pay for the cost of drafting an amicus brief, on behalf of all USET Tribes, to counter any possible negative decisions; and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Nation of Indians and their legal counsel welcome any comments from the USET Tribes that could be included in said amicus brief in order to make it more inclusive of all the Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that USET supports the actions of the Oneida Indian Nation to provide the financial resources in the filing of an amicus brief on behalf of the USET Tribes, recognizing that this is optional for all tribes should they wish not to participate; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that all comments from USET Tribes, to be incorporated into the amicus brief, must be in to the USET office within a reasonable time-frame in order to meet the court's February 27, 2003 deadline.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA., Thursday, February 6, 2003.


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


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

"Because there is strength in Unity"