



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2004:043

SUPPORT OF THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE ALASKAN TRIBES AND VILLAGES

- 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 Alaska Legislature has for several years engaged in litigation against the Department of the Interior and Alaskan Tribes to terminate the federally recognized tribal status of Alaska Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** in the wake of recent defeats the Alaska Legislature's attorney in 2003 filed two new lawsuits against the Department of the Interior seeking a court order declaring the current federal recognition of Alaska Tribes to be illegal; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska legislature's efforts have been actively supported by Alaska Senator Ted Stevens, who directly urged Department of Interior Secretary Norton to reverse the Department's recognition of Alaska Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** pending the outcome of this litigation, Senator Stevens has commenced a new campaign to de-fund Alaska Native Tribes, including proposing (1) a rider in the FY 2004 Justice Department Appropriations taking away tribal court and COPS funding from Alaska Tribes and transferring those funds to the State of Alaska and (2) a rider to the Veteran's Administration/Department of Housing and Urban Development (VA/HUD) Appropriations taking away from Alaska Native Tribes housing funds presently administered by these Tribes under Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA); and
- WHEREAS,** the effect of these similar measures will be to slowly cut off the ability of the Alaska Tribes to function by denying them the ability to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** other members of Congress, have to date not taken a position on these matters, including the riders being advanced in the FY 2004 appropriations process; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that the USET Board of Directors (1) hereby condemns as discriminatory and contrary to America's policy of tribal self-determination, all riders intended to take funding away from the control of Alaskan Tribes and Villages, (2) calls upon all members of Congress to actively oppose any such riders by requesting that they be removed from all 2005 appropriations bills and/or continuing resolutions prior to their final enactment, and (3) calls upon the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice to not waiver from their past defense of the federally recognized tribal status of Alaska Native Tribes.

“Because there is strength in Unity”

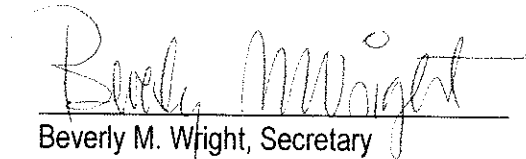
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CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, Virginia, February 5, 2004.



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



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