



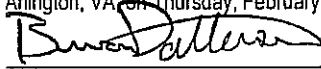
USET Resolution No. 2008:016

**BUILDING POLITICAL POWER FOR MEMBER TRIBES OF
UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INCORPORATED**

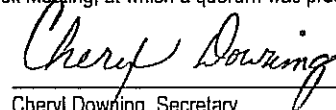
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** USET represents the common interests of all member Tribes, whose diverse resources are one of USET's greatest strengths; and
- WHEREAS,** there continues to be ongoing and substantial threats to Tribal sovereignty at the national, state and local level; and
- WHEREAS,** many of the USET Tribes are subject to undue restrictions on Tribal sovereignty that are not consistent with fundamental principles of Federal Indian law, policy and the U.S. Constitution; and
- WHEREAS,** it is in the best interest of USET member Tribes, in the exercise of their sovereignty and the principles of self-determination and self-governance, to expand their political activity in a manner consistent with Tribal, Federal and State law; and
- WHEREAS,** USET is a 501(c)(3) organization that can only do a limited amount of advocacy and is prohibited from engaging in political campaign activity to influence elections to public office; and
- WHEREAS,** it is in the interest of USET member Tribes to develop a stronger political communication strategy and to strengthen USET's alliances with other Indian and non-Indian organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** USET's political impact can be enhanced through greater coordination among the USET Tribes and increased civic participation by the citizens of the USET Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recognizes that USET Tribes are free to establish individually or collectively an independent political entity or entities that may engage in political activities that USET itself cannot engage in, but would advance the interests of all USET Tribes; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** USET shall develop, to the extent permitted by law, expanded grassroots and educational capabilities to promote overall civic engagement, voter participation, issue advocacy and leadership training resulting in a new generation of politically active American Indian citizens and leaders.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 14, 2008.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Cheryl Dowling, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"