



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2008:029

**OPPOSING LEGISLATION TERMINATING THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
RELATIONSHIP OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES AND NATIONS**

- 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,** Indian Tribes are sovereign indigenous nations, with rights of self-government pre-dating the United States (US); and
- WHEREAS,** the US Constitution, treaties, statutes, and executive orders acknowledge the sovereign status of Indian Tribes as governments; and
- WHEREAS,** President George W. Bush issued an Executive Memorandum to all Executive Departments and Agencies to work with Indian Nations on a government-to-government basis and to consult with Tribes before taking any action that could have an impact on any Indian Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** H.R. 2824 calls for the termination of the government-to-government relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** such action sets a dangerous precedent to all Indian Tribes and Nations; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors hereby opposes *H.R. 2824, To Sever United States Government Relations with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Until Such Time as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Restores Full Tribal Citizenship to the Cherokee Freedmen Disenfranchised in the March 3, 2007, Cherokee Nation Vote and Fulfills All Its Treaty Obligations with the Government of the United States and for Other Purposes.*

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 Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"



The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #DEN-07-071

TITLE: Opposing Legislation Terminating the Government-to-Government Relationship of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Nations

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, on June 21st, 2007, Rep. Diane Watson (D-Calif.) introduced H.R. 2824 in 110th 1st Session of Congress that would break the promise of tribal self-government and threaten the right of all Indian tribes to determine, and thus preserve, our distinctively Indian identities; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2824 seeks to create provisions for unnecessary mandated Department of Justice and Government Accountability Office studies for the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2824 calls for the termination of the government-to-government relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation is a federally-recognized tribe and a member in good standing of the NCAI; and

WHEREAS, this alarming, inappropriate and unacceptable overreach undermines sovereign tribal governments and sets a dangerous precedent to all Indian tribes and nations; and

WHEREAS, it has been the historic policy of NCAI to object to any legislation or federal action which diminishes limits or reduces sovereignty of federally recognized tribes or nations.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI hereby opposes H.R.2824, or any other termination provision or amendment in legislation, that severs the government-to-government relationship between sovereign tribes and the United States Federal Government or any coercive legislative action which diminishes, limits or reduces funding of the United States to Indian tribes and nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

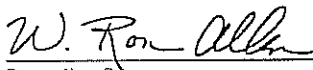
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2007 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado on November 11-16, 2007, with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary