



USET Resolution No. 2009:042

**SUPPORT OF THE EXPEDITIOUS ACCEPTANCE OF THE CAYUGA NATION'S
FEE-TO-TRUST APPLICATIONS**

- 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,** the Cayuga Nation of New York (Cayuga Nation) is a member in good standing of USET; and
- WHEREAS,** the Cayuga Nation is a treated Indian Nation or Tribe in the United States without sovereign land; and
- WHEREAS,** in April and May of 2005, the Cayuga Nation filed applications with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to have approximately 125 acres of land owned by the Cayuga Nation on its historic 64,015 acre reservation taken into trust by the Federal Government for the benefit of the Cayuga Nation (the Cayuga Nation's fee-to-trust applications); and
- WHEREAS,** on May 4, 2009, the Cayuga Nation was informed that the Obama Administration, acting through the Department of Interior, had approved the publication of Notices of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared in connection with the Cayuga Nation's fee-to-trust applications; and
- WHEREAS,** the BIA intends to publish an NOA of the DEIS in the Federal Register on May 22, 2009, and has instructed the Cayuga Nation to publish its NOA in local newspapers on May 22, 2009, and to reserve a location for the public hearing on the DEIS for June 15, 2009; and
- WHEREAS,** consistent with the "The Mission of USET" and our "Statement of Unity," USET is committed to assisting member Tribes and their governments in dealing effectively with issues affecting the sovereignty of member Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** USET recognizes the importance to the Cayuga Nation of its fee-to-trust applications and fully supports the expeditious processing and acceptance of these applications by the BIA; and, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors urges the Obama Administration, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to expeditiously process and accept the Cayuga Nation's fee-to-trust applications and to issue a Record of Decision accepting the Cayuga Nation's lands which are the subject of the fee-to-trust applications into trust by the Federal Government for the benefit of the Cayuga Nation at the earliest possible date.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

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

Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"