



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2020 SPF:008

CALLING ON CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO ALLOW ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES ACCESS TO THE TRIBAL HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty (30) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** federal law sharply limits which Tribal Nations ("directly eligible tribes") are able to participate in the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP) (6 U.S.C. § 601), in violation of the federal government's trust and treaty responsibilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the THSGP is the major source of funding for Tribal Nations to address all their homeland security needs; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has interpreted 6 U.S.C. § 601, without Tribal consultation as required by law, to require that Tribal Nations must be located on or near 50 miles of an international border or a coastline bordering an ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico or international waters, to apply for the THSGP; and
- WHEREAS,** because of the restrictive language regarding "directly eligible tribes" and the DHS 50-mile requirement only approximately 150 of the 573 federally recognized Tribal Nations can apply for the THSGP leaving the majority of Indian Country without any funding to meet their homeland security needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the lack of investment in, and funding of Indian Country in the areas of Tribal homeland security has made Tribal Nations a weak link in the effort to protect all U.S. citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** DHS has a trust responsibility to provide adequate homeland security assistance and services to Tribal Nations and their citizens in order to build capability and capacity in the five mission areas of homeland security to meet the guidelines of the National Preparedness Goal; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, therefore be it


RESOLVED USET SPF calls on Congress to amend the “directly eligible tribes” language to allow all federally recognized Tribal Nations the chance to receive funding under the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program; and be it further

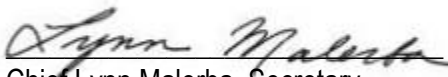
RESOLVED USET SPF calls upon DHS to rescind its additional 50-mile requirement for Tribal Nations to be eligible for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of USET SPF until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, November 7th, 2019.


Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
Sovereignty Protection Fund


Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
Sovereignty Protection Fund