



# USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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## USET SPF Resolution No. 2020 SPF:017

### **REQUESTING CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO ESTABLISH AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS POSITION AND A NATIONAL TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**


- 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,** the federal government has not met its treaty and trust responsibilities to the thirty Tribal Nations of USET SPF in regard to building their capability to address the five mission areas of homeland security as required by the Homeland Security Act of 2002; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET SPF Member Tribal Nations have the same responsibilities to protect their citizens as state governments, but are not afforded the same funding as state and local governments; and
- WHEREAS,** despite its ongoing presence in Indian Country, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) does not have an advisory body comprised of representatives from Indian Country to advise the Secretary of Homeland Security on Tribal homeland security and emergency services issues; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations have been left out of homeland security funding, thus making Indian Country a weak link in the National Security Plan, a disparity that could be remedied by proper planning and investments into Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Nations' homeland security, public safety, and emergency services personnel courageously serve and protect Tribal citizens and others within Tribal communities, often working with many local jurisdictions through mutual aid agreements; 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, be it
- RESOLVED** that USET SPF calls upon the Department of Homeland Security to establish a Tribal Advisory Council to advise the Secretary of Homeland Security on Tribal homeland security and emergency services issues and needs; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that USET SPF calls upon Congress or the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Tribal Affairs in the Department of Homeland

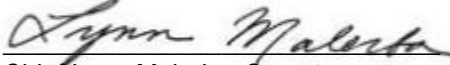
Security to directly address the needs of Indian Country in the areas of homeland security and emergency services; and be it further

**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 held on the Sovereign Territory of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians at which a quorum was present on November 7, 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