



# USET

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For Immediate Release



## USET SPF Celebrates Historic Appointment of Chief Lynn Malerba as First Native U.S. Treasurer

Washington, DC—Today, President Biden announced the appointment of Mohegan Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts), Marilynn “Lynn” Malerba, and USET Sovereignty Protection Fund Secretary, to be the next Treasurer of the United States. She is the first Native person to hold this position and the highest-ranking Native Treasury official in U.S. history. The Treasurer has direct oversight over the U.S. Mint, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and Fort Knox and is a key liaison with the Federal Reserve. In addition, the Treasurer serves as a senior advisor to the Secretary in the areas of community development and public engagement. For the very first time, the signature of a

Native person, as well as those of two women, Chief Malerba and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, will appear on U.S. currency.

Her appointment continues to advance the Biden Administration’s commitment to ensuring it represents the country it serves better than ever before, including a reflection of our diverse citizenship. In addition, this is yet another historic moment for Indian Country under this Administration, representing the President’s continued commitment to the evolution of our nation-to-nation relationship with the United States. Specifically, Tribal Nations have been calling for the establishment of a high-level office of Tribal Affairs at Treasury, and the Administration has responded with the appointment of Chief Malerba to lead its formation, an exceptional leader who is held in high esteem across Indian Country and beyond. As Treasurer, Chief Malerba will take full advantage of the opportunity to ensure that Tribal Nations have a strong voice at Treasury, as it seeks to craft policy that reflects our unique circumstances and relationship with the United States.

**“Chief Malerba embodies the highest ideals of leadership,”** said USET SPF President, Chief Kirk Francis. **“She leads with compassion, tact, love, integrity, professionalism, and respect for all people, while fervently advocating for the advancement of Tribal sovereignty and the delivery of trust obligations. For nearly 20 years, our Board of Directors has looked to Chief Malerba for her reasoned guidance and expertise amid some of Indian Country’s most complex issues, including those related to Tribal self-governance, the federal budget, taxation, and economic development. She has dedicated herself to the service of our Tribal communities, our people, and the next generations. Without a doubt, she will bring this same care and dedication to her role as Treasurer, while carrying all of Indian Country in her heart. On behalf of the USET SPF family, we greet this appointment with joy and pride. We send Chief Malerba our prayers and good thoughts as she embarks upon this next journey, and extend our appreciation to President Biden and Secretary Yellen for ensuring that Indian Country is represented at the Department of Treasury.”**

**"The Mohegan Tribe and its citizens have benefited tremendously from the leadership of Chief Lynn Malerba, and we are thrilled that she will now bring her expertise, energy, and compassion to the role of Treasurer of the United States,"** said James Gessner Jr., Chairman of the Mohegan Tribe. **"This appointment is an honor for her and for our Tribe, and it is well-deserved. Lynn has been a trailblazer in the Mohegan community as the first female Chief in our modern history. Prior to that, she served on the Tribal Council including as Chairwoman. She also led our Health and Human Services agency and had a distinguished career as both a healthcare professional and hospital administrator. Her appointment is another positive step by the Biden administration to show inclusiveness with Native Americans and ensure we have a seat at the table of federal government. We congratulate Lynn on this incredible appointment. The Nation will be stronger with her serving in the Administration."**

Chief Malerba holds diverse and varied expertise, the result of a career spanning nearly six decades, including significant experience in community economic development at the Tribal, local, state, and national levels. Following lengthy service as a registered nurse and hospital administrator, she served as Chairwoman of the Mohegan Tribal Council and in Tribal Government as its first Executive Director of Health and Human Services. In 2010, she became the Mohegan Tribe's 18<sup>th</sup> Chief, the first in its modern history. She earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Yale University, named a Jonas Scholar. She was awarded an honorary Doctoral degree in Science from Eastern Connecticut State University and an honorary Doctoral Degree in Humane Letters from the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, CT. She earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Connecticut and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College of St. Joseph.

In addition to USET SPF Secretary, she currently serves as Chairwoman of the Indian Health Service Tribal Self-Governance Advisory Committee, a member of the Justice Department's Tribal Nations Leadership Council, a member of the Tribal Advisory Committee for the National Institutes of Health, and a member of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee. Locally, she serves as a Trustee for Chelsea Groton Bank, Chairwoman of the Board for the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, and on the Provost's Advisory Committee Member for the Harvard University Native American Program.

**"Chief Malerba is a strong and exceptionally seasoned leader, whose depth of experience in building community, consensus, and economies make her uniquely qualified for this position,"** added USET SPF Executive Director, Kitcki Carroll. **"While her appointment represents significant progress and advancement opportunities for Tribal Nations and the trust obligation, we know that her wealth of diverse experience, coupled with her indigenous grounding and perspective, will also be transformative for communities across the United States. In addition to playing a critical role in this Administration's efforts to ensure that our economy works for all Americans, this high level appointment also represents an opportunity for Indian Country to achieve greater visibility and for all Americans to experience first-hand the tremendous talents, knowledge, and experience of this country's original inhabitants."**

Chief Malerba will be an asset to the Department of the Treasury as part of its efforts to build stronger communities across the United States, in addition to supporting improvements and strengthening the Nation-to-Nation diplomatic relationship with Indian Country. She holds a full appreciation for our history and relationship with the United States and brings an indigenous sensibility of stewardship and responsibility to all that she does. It is this perspective that will allow Treasury and this Administration to better implement its vision for a renewed America that empowers all of its citizens. USET SPF is confident that Chief Malerba's service will bring significant progress for Indian Country and the United States as a whole. We applaud her appointment and stand ready to offer our guidance and partnership as her work begins.

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**USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)**

Established in 2014, the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization advocating on behalf of 33 federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico. USET SPF is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and advancing the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of Tribal Nations and in assisting its membership in dealing effectively with public policy issues.