



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

Nashville, TN Office
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
P: 615-872-7900 | F: 615-872-7417

Washington, DC Office
1730 Rhode Island Ave., NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20036

USET SPF Resolution No. 2023 SPF:006

SUPPORTING REPRESENTATION OF ALL FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL NATIONS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of thirty-three (33) 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,** Tribal Nations are sovereigns that pre-date the United States with inherent rights to self-government and self-determination, jurisdiction over our people and lands, and the administration of justice; and
- WHEREAS,** USET SPF member Tribal Nations were the first to contend with 17th and 18th-century local colonial governments and distant European nations at the onset of colonization in North America; and
- WHEREAS,** USET SPF member Tribal Nations engaged in treaty-making with both the British Crown—in addition to other foreign governments—and the nascent American government, in addition to later treaty-making with the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** in its early formative years, the United States, in accordance with our governmental status, often took action within our lands only after securing consent through Nation-to-Nation diplomacy, including through treaty-making; and
- WHEREAS,** several Tribal Nations have treaties with the U.S. that include provisions for the appointment of a Tribal Nation Delegate to the U.S. Congress and these provisions have never been honored by the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS,** under the Supremacy Clause, the U.S. Constitution states that, “all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land”; and
- WHEREAS,** when Congress amended the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) in 1994, it reaffirmed the original intent of the IRA and ensured that all Tribal Nations would be treated equally, no matter when their relationship with the federal government was recognized; and
- WHEREAS,** each of the 574 federally recognized Tribal Nations has its own unique, diplomatic relationship with the United States and USET SPF has consistently called for greater efforts to engage with Tribal Nations on an individual basis; and

WHEREAS, seating a delegate to the U.S. Congress from each federally recognized Tribal Nation would recognize our individual, diplomatic relationships with the United States, as well as facilitate the improved execution of federal trust and treaty obligations; 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 USET SPF supports current efforts to seat Tribal Nation delegates to the United States Congress pursuant to the provisions of certain treaties; and be it further

RESOLVED USET SPF calls upon the United States Congress to seat delegates from all federally recognized Tribal Nations in accordance with the 1994 Indian Reorganization Act amendments and the Nation-to-Nation diplomatic relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting held in Arlington, VA at which a quorum was present on February 7, 2023.



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



Vice Chairwoman Sarah Harris, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund