

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:015

## NOMINATING AN EASTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TRIBAL NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

- **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, the United States (U.S.) Government and each federally recognized Tribal Nation have a government-to-government relationship grounded in numerous historical, political, legal, moral, and ethical considerations; and
- WHEREAS, it is essential that Tribal Nations and the U.S. federal government engage in open, continuous, and meaningful consultation, which includes a requirement for Tribal consent for an undertaking that could significantly affect a Tribal interest; and
- WHEREAS, a variety of federal advisory committees/workgroups have been developed to complement meaningful consultation and coordination with Tribal Nations on issues that impact them and to promote Tribal Nation participation in the decision making process to the greatest extent possible; and
- WHEREAS, the Department of Justice Tribal Nations Leadership Council (DOJ TNLC) was established by charter in 2010 to "facilitate dialog and coordinate efforts between the Department of Justice and Tribal governments, furthering the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations"; and
- WHEREAS, the DOJ TNLC is expected to provide perspective on the Department's activities in Indian Country and raise issues that have Tribal implications, including, but not limited to, those related to law enforcement, civil rights, tax issues, environmental concerns, and sacred sites; and
- **WHEREAS,** the DOJ TNLC members include one Tribal leader from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), chosen by the Tribal Nations of that region; and
- **WHEREAS,** USET SPF member Tribal Nations are located within the Eastern Region of the BIA and the DOJ is currently seeking an Eastern Region representative to the TNLC; and
- WHEREAS, Vice Chairwoman Sarah Harris of the Mohegan Tribe, an attorney with previous federal service, has expressed an interest in representing the Eastern Region on the DOJ TNLC; 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** the USET SPF Board of Directors nominates Vice Chairwoman Sarah Harris to represent the Eastern Region on the Department of Justice Tribal Nations Leadership Council.

## CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed by the USET SPF Executive Committee, at which a quorum was present on June 3, 2023.

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

Vice Chairman Robert McGhee, Vice-President United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund