



# USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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## USET SPF Resolution No. 2024 SPF:002

### **OPPOSITION TO NON-USET SPF MEMBER TRIBAL NATIONS' EFFORTS TO PURCHASE LAND FOR THE PURPOSES OF PLACING LAND INTO TRUST OR RESTRICTED FEE STATUS OR ASSERTING JURISDICTION, LEGISLATIVELY OR ADMINISTRATIVELY, WITHIN THE ABORIGINAL, HISTORICAL, OR ANCESTRAL TERRITORY OR HOMELANDS OF USET SPF MEMBERSHIP**

- 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 prior and treaty protected rights to self-government and to our lands; and
- WHEREAS,** USET SPF Member Tribal Nations are federally recognized Tribal Nations located along the South and Eastern United States; and
- WHEREAS,** USET SPF Member Tribal Nations have remained in our ancestral and aboriginal homelands, while many other Tribal Nations have been relocated based on treaties or federal action to locations outside of the South and Eastern United States; and
- WHEREAS,** those Tribal Nations that were relocated now have established reservations or lands in other states where they were relocated, and now exert jurisdiction over those lands in other states; and
- WHEREAS,** those Tribal Nations are distinct and separate from the USET SPF Member Tribal Nations that remained on and continue to restore our traditional homelands and exert jurisdiction over our established reservations and exercise responsibility over our ancestral and aboriginal homelands; and
- WHEREAS,** there have been consistent and sustained efforts by a number of relocated Tribal Nations to acquire lands in the established reservations and ancestral and aboriginal homelands of USET SPF Member Tribal Nations and to assert jurisdiction over such lands for purposes adverse to the interests of the USET SPF Member Tribal Nations and our citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** these efforts are frequently hostile to USET SPF Member Tribal Nations because they sow chaos and create confusion in our home communities, threaten the well-being and standing of USET SPF Member Tribal Nations in our communities, and undermine the sovereign status of USET SPF Member Tribal Nations; and

**WHEREAS,** Tribal sovereignty must be recognized and respected among Tribal Nations, as well as by non-Tribal governments; 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 the USET SPF Board of Directors opposes any federal or non-federal efforts that would grant new rights or enable non-USET SPF Member Tribal Nations to purchase land for the purposes of placing such land in trust or restricted fee status or otherwise attempt to assert jurisdiction within the aboriginal, historical, ancestral territory or homelands of USET SPF membership in other states where they do not have their federally recognized reservations; and be it further

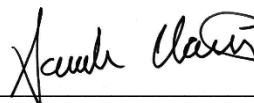
**RESOLVED** that the USET SPF Board of Directors further urges Congress and the Administration to respect the sovereignty of the USET SPF membership and not support any legislation or administrative action that would authorize or enable non-USET SPF Member Tribal Nations from asserting jurisdiction within the reservations and aboriginal, historical, or ancestral territory or homelands of USET SPF Tribal Nations.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Annual Meeting held on the Sovereign Territory of the Oneida Indian Nation at which a quorum was present on October 25, 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