

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT Layla Langley**  
**Phone: (530) 966-7832**  
[llangley@usetinc.org](mailto:llangley@usetinc.org)  
[www.usetinc.org](http://www.usetinc.org)



**USET**  
SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND



## **USET SPF PRESS RELEASE**

### **Recognition and Service to our “Single Garment of Destiny”**

#### **What Reflection and Recommitting to Dr. King’s Values Mean in Our World Today**

(Nashville, TN)- January 15th, 2024, marks the annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a day not just for quiet reflection but a resounding call to action. In 1994, the King Holiday and Service Act was signed into law by President Bill Clinton, embodying the spirit of Dr. King’s life of service. It serves as a profound reminder that honoring Dr. King’s legacy, recognition of the work of those who came before us and reinforces that working towards greater equality should be anything but passive.

Today, on this day of remembrance, let us rise united and inspired by Dr. King’s unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and love. Let us not merely commemorate his legacy but actively embody it through acts of kindness, empathy, and service to one another. Together, we can turn his dream into a shared reality, where the triumph of justice and unity benefits not just a few, but every soul on this planet. The “single garment of history” that Dr. King spoke of portrays every individual in our society as a thread. These threads can be used to create beauty and inspire change, to weave a blanket that envelops us all as one family.

Dr. King championed the belief that civil rights are human rights. He envisioned a world where the eradication of prejudice would benefit all of humanity. He implored us to dedicate our talents and energy to this noble cause. In doing so, it does not mean we should forsake our own passions and individual pursuits;

rather, it underscores the importance of recognizing that we all have a place in the creation of a more just society starting with proper acknowledgement that our nation's founding is built upon the theft of lands and natural resources belonging to Tribal Nations, followed by centuries of unjust treatment of this nation's first people and broken promises.

Dr. King recognized that rebuilding starts with acknowledgement. This is true for both the United States and Tribal Nations. Once the history of the United States is honest in its depiction, a societal rebuilding can begin and be a catalyst to incredible progress. For us in Indian Country, simply put, acknowledging the past and the debts owed to us, having a greater appreciation of the strength and perseverance of Tribal Nations, and an understanding of how federal policies of assimilation and termination impacted our circumstances today, will then make our Tribal Nation Rebuilding more successful and expedient.

In honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., we must honor the ideals he stood for, and work tirelessly to build a world where his vision of a just and equitable society becomes a living testament to his enduring legacy. Let us take this day not as a mere commemoration, but as a renewed commitment to serve ourselves and our communities, to champion the cause of equality and justice, and to take on Nation rebuilding and focus on ensuring equality and respect that MLK envisioned for us. Let us come together with purpose and unity, for it is in our collective actions that we can truly honor his work towards a more just and equitable world.

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#### **United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)**

Established in 1969, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization serving 33 federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico. USET is dedicated to enhancing the development of Tribal Nations, improving the capabilities of Tribal governments, and improving the quality of life for Indian people through a variety of technical and supportive programmatic services.

#### **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.



**United South and Eastern Tribes**

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville, TN 37214

[www.usetinc.org](http://www.usetinc.org)

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