



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2025 SPF:012

SUPPORTING PURSUIT OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER AIMED AT USHERING IN THE DIPLOMACY ERA OF FEDERAL INDIAN LAW AND POLICY

- WHEREAS,** the 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,** USET SPF has long advocated for an evolved federally recognized Tribal Nation-United States relationship that is more respectful of Tribal Nations' inherent sovereignty, more reflective of a diplomatic relationship between sovereigns, and more fully holds the United States accountable for its trust and treaty obligations; and
- WHEREAS,** in furtherance of this work, USET SPF prepared a document entitled "Toward a New Era in the Tribal Nation-United States Relationship: Re-imagining Nation-to-Nation Diplomacy for the 21st Century"; and
- WHEREAS,** the Catawba Nation prepared the attached Executive Order, which reflects these principles and has submitted this Executive Order to the Trump Administration for consideration; and
- WHEREAS,** not only would the Trump Administration signal the beginning of a new era of federal Indian law and policy as described above, but adoption of the Executive Order would also establish the groundwork for ensuring Indian Country is insulated from collateral damage during the Administration's implementation of its policy priorities; 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 is in full support of and urges the White House to adopt the Executive Order and usher in a new era of federal Indian law and policy that is more respectful of Tribal Nations' inherent sovereignty, more reflective of a diplomatic relationship between sovereigns, and more fully holds the United States accountable for its trust and treaty obligations; and be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET SPF Board of Directors, in alignment with the Executive Order, urges the White House to engage with Tribal Nations—prior to taking action—to better understand where within the federal government direct and essential services are being provided to

Indian Country and how to implement the Administration’s policy priorities without affecting ongoing legal requirements to Indian Country, in keeping with the United States’ duty to consult government-to-government with Tribal Nations on federal actions that may have Tribal implications; and be it further

RESOLVED that the USET SPF Board of Directors, in alignment with the Executive Order, urges the White House to affirmatively state that programs and funding delivered to Tribal Nations and Tribal citizens and communities are delivered in recognition of our unique political status and in furtherance of the United States’ trust and treaty obligations and related statutory mandates; and be it further

RESOLVED that the USET SPF Board of Directors, in alignment with the Executive Order, urges the White House to exempt from any efforts to pause or reduce federal funding all Tribal programs or funding delivered to Tribal Nations, including through Urban Indian Organizations and Tribal organizations serving Tribal Nations; and be it finally

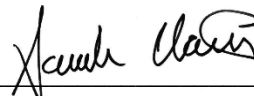
RESOLVED that the USET SPF Board of Directors, in alignment with the Executive Order, urges the White House to exempt from any workforce reductions or hiring freezes all federal employees serving in Tribal offices or whose roles assist in the delivery of services or funding to Tribal Nations or Tribal citizens or communities.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting held near Washington DC at which a quorum was present on March 13, 2025.



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

Because there is Strength in Unity