



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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Transmitted Electronically

March 25, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
The Capitol
S-221
Washington, DC 20515

Re: USET SPF Letter of Support for the Nomination of Michael Faulkender for Deputy Secretary of the Treasury

Dear Majority Leader Thune,

On behalf of the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) we write to express our support for the confirmation of Michael Faulkender for the position of Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. During the Senate Committee on Finance's confirmation hearing on March 6, 2025, Senator Tina Smith inquired whether Mr. Faulkender would commit to upholding Treasury's government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations and maintain the statutorily established Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC). USET SPF was pleased to hear Mr. Faulkender's affirmation of his commitment to recognize and honor the government-to-government relationship between sovereign Tribal Nations and the United States federal government.

USET SPF is a non-profit, inter-tribal organization advocating on behalf of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico.¹ 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.

In his previous role as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy under the first President Trump Administration, Mr. Faulkender recognized that he respects the importance of government-to-government consultation between Tribal Nations and the federal government. This was recorded during the June 20, 2019 [minutes](#) of the TTAC where he, "emphasized the distinct but complimentary roles

¹ USET SPF member Tribal Nations include: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (TX), Catawba Indian Nation (SC), Cayuga Nation (NY), Chickahominy Indian Tribe (VA), Chickahominy Indian Tribe–Eastern Division (VA), Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana (LA), Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (LA), Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (NC), Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (ME), Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (LA), Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe (CT), Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (MA), Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (FL), Mi'kmaq Nation (ME), Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MS), Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut (CT), Monacan Indian Nation (VA), Nansemond Indian Nation (VA), Narragansett Indian Tribe (RI), Oneida Indian Nation (NY), Pamunkey Indian Tribe (VA), Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township (ME), Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point (ME), Penobscot Indian Nation (ME), Poarch Band of Creek Indians (AL), Rappahannock Tribe (VA), Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (NY), Seminole Tribe of Florida (FL), Seneca Nation of Indians (NY), Shinnecock Indian Nation (NY), Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana (LA), Upper Mattaponi Tribe (VA) and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (MA).

Because there is Strength in Unity

consultations and the TTAC have in Treasury's [Tribal] affairs and how they are used to craft sound economic policy."

Mr. Faulkender also assisted in efforts to establish Treasury's Office of Tribal and Native Affairs (OTNA), an office that has been critical to assisting the work of the TTAC and liaising with other offices within Treasury to raise awareness about key economic and taxation issues affecting Tribal Nations. Through these efforts, the TTAC and OTNA have been instrumental in advancing Tribal economic policy and have set a new standard for Tribal consultation within Treasury.

We commend Mr. Faulkender for stating in the record that he recognizes that the economic and revenue generation issues facing Tribal Nations are unique and, therefore, necessitate specialists—such as TTAC and OTNA—that are familiar with these issues. The TTAC and OTNA are critical to support the rebuilding and growth of Tribal economies as an exercise of Tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and self-sufficiency.

Therefore, USET SPF supports Mr. Faulkender's swift confirmation by the Senate to become the next Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Ms. Liz Malerba, USET SPF Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, at LMalerba@usetinc.org or 615-838-5906.

Sincerely,



Chief Kirk Francis
President
USET SPF



Kitcki A. Carroll
Executive Director
USET SPF