



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike • Suite 100 • Nashville, TN 37214
(P): 615-872-7900 • (F): 615-872-7417

USET Resolution No. 2011:002

CONDEMNING THE RACIST AND INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS OF NEW YORK CITY MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG AND CALLING UPON TRIBAL, NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO EXPRESS THEIR OUTRAGE TO THE MAYOR


- WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg, on August 13, 2010 in commenting on a dispute between an Indian Nation and the State of New York, stated "I've said this to David Paterson, I said, 'You know, get yourself a cowboy hat and a shotgun. If there's ever a great video, it's you standing in the middle of the New York State Thruway saying, you know, 'Read my lips - the law of the land is this, and we're going to enforce the law;'" and
- WHEREAS,** it is despicable for the Mayor to invoke the threat of violence and approvingly use the imagery of cowboys wielding shotguns - an image that is deeply hurtful to Indian peoples whose ancestors have been ruthlessly killed over a period of hundreds of years by people who similarly sought to justify the theft of Indian lands and resources and actually did wield shotguns and other lethal weapons; and
- WHEREAS,** the effect of Mayor Bloomberg's comments is to dehumanize Indian peoples in a manner that has a long and tragic precedent in America's historic treatment of Indian peoples, and is - somewhat ironic given the Mayor's own personal experiences with discrimination; and
- WHEREAS,** these incendiary and inflammatory comments are deeply offensive to Indian peoples and deeply offensive to all Americans who value tolerance and the resolution of disputes through non-violent means; and
- WHEREAS,** the lack of an outcry over Mayor Bloomberg's comments is as shocking as the comments themselves since any similar comments involving any other minority group would have been a matter of national significance and condemnation; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has condemned the remarks of the Mayor but also sought his apology and an opportunity for further dialogue and learning, but the Mayor has refused to apologize or engage with USET in any manner; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly condemns and censures Mayor Bloomberg for his reprehensible comments; and be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon Tribal, National, State and local political leadership of all political parties and persuasions to join in condemning Mayor Bloomberg's comments; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon all Americans to hold high the values of respect, tolerance and the non-violent resolution of conflict which are hallmarks of the American ideal of government.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, October 14, 2010.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"