United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2011:024


WHEREAS, 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, Tribes are "distinct, independent, political communities" exercising powers of self-government by virtue of their own innate sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Congress enacted the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), authorizing Tribes to enter into contracts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) to receive funds and manage individual programs; and

WHEREAS, ISDEAA was amended in 1988, 1991, 1994, and 2000; and

WHEREAS, in a 2004 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on Indian economic development, GAO noted that Tribes that engaged in self-governance had greater gains in employment levels from 1990 to 2000 compared to Tribes that participated less in the program; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4347, the Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2010, was introduced on December 16, 2009, by Representative Dan Boren (D-OK); and

WHEREAS, the House Committee on Natural Resources (Committee) held a hearing on H.R. 4347 on June 9, 2010; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2010, the Committee met to consider H.R. 4347, and Representative Boren offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute, which was adopted by voice vote; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4347, was passed by the House of Representatives on September 22, 2010; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4347 includes comprehensive amendments to Title IV of ISDEAA, as well as some important amendments to Title I of the ISDEAA; and

WHEREAS, Title I authorizes and sets forth criteria for the contracting program within the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), while Title IV authorizes and sets forth criteria for the self-governance program at DOI; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports the enhancement of Tribal self-governance by, among other things, making the Department of Interior self-governance program consistent with its Indian Health Service counterpart in Title V; and, be it further
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports Senate passage of H.R. 4347 before the end of the current congressional session; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors urges the Administration to support H.R. 4347.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET 2010 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"