SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR TRIBAL LANGUAGE EDUCATORS

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, the history and culture of Indian Tribes is indistinguishable from our members, spirit and spirituality; and

WHEREAS, protection and preservation of our native languages, and our historical, traditional and cultural places is the solemn responsibility of our Tribes; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Indian Tribes support, embrace and promote their native language within their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, public Language Educators receive their teaching certificates from various colleges and universities for the English language; and

WHEREAS, Tribal Language Educators should be held to the same standards; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports and encourages its member Tribes to pursue a mandate to have Tribal Language Educators certified in their native languages; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon the United State Congress and the Department of Interior to endorse and implement an initiative to develop protocols and/or a certification program for Tribal Language Educators.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 11, 2010.

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

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