



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.  
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**USET Resolution No. 2010:008**

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA TO HONOR HIS COMMITMENT TO  
GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

- 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,** White House personnel within the Obama Administration have decided that Tribal Governments should require their employees to register as lobbyists if those Tribal Governments wish to interact with the Obama Administration or Congress; and
- WHEREAS,** this policy is a direct affront to the sovereignty of Tribal Governments, and violates the Government to Government relationship that President Obama has stated exists between Tribal governments and the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** no other Government, State or local, is required to register as a lobbying entity, and no other associated group of governments-such as the National Governors Association or the National Association of Attorneys General is required to register as a lobbying entity in order to communicate with the Obama Administration; and
- WHEREAS,** employees of Tribal Governments have been determined by the Obama White House Office of Personnel to be ineligible for political appointments within the Obama Administration because their Tribal Government employer did not register as a lobbying entity and did not require those individuals to register as lobbyists; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal employees are highly qualified for the positions for which they were considered, and this policy by the Obama Administration was not publicly noticed to Tribal Governments or made the subject of Government to Government consultation.
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments with USET and across the United States have already been negatively impacted by this policy of the Obama Administration; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors calls on President Obama to honor his publicly stated commitment to our Government to Government relationship by reversing this misguided policy and allowing tribal employees to proceed on their own merit; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors calls upon President Obama and his Administration to honor the Government to Government relationship that exists between Tribal Governments and the United States by consulting with Indian Tribes on similar policy so that misinformation can be corrected, negative impacts can be avoided, and the sovereignty of Indian Tribes is respected.

**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.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*