USET Resolution No. 2010:011

USET SUPPORT OF THE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF NORTHWEST INDIANS RESOLUTION 09-38

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 Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) is a regional organization, representing and advocating on behalf of Tribes in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the Northwest have for many years spent countless hours and funds protecting and re-establishing the ecosystem from degradation; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes of the Northwest are home to over 20,000 head of unclaimed/feral horses that are overgrazing and destroying the rangeland of the northwest reservations that are damaging spring developments, stream bank restoration, fish habitat and culturally significant plants; and

WHEREAS, various political co-sponsors have introduced and reintroduced legislation into the United States House of Representatives (H.R. 503) and Senate (S 727) amending the 1970 Horse Protection Act (HPA) to prohibit the showing, transport or sale of horses that have been subject to any painful process to accentuate their gate; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has a trust responsibility to protect the interest of Indian Tribes as well as a duty to implement laws passed to benefit those Tribes, yet it failed to consult or communicate with any Tribes prior to taking position on H.R. 503; and

WHEREAS, the horse market represents a significant market that reservation horse producers need to sustain their livestock operations, in the productive utilization of Tribal and allotted lands; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Tribal Horse Coalition (NTHC) is adopted as a subcommittee of the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) and requests the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs provide a funding source for horse management practices; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI has passed resolution 09-38 “Opposition to Any/All Horse Slaughter Acts, Also Supporting a Tribal Amendment Allowing Tribes to Establish Horse Slaughter Facilities Within Their Jurisdiction”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Resolution 09-38, “Opposition to Any/All Horse Slaughter Acts, Also Supporting a Tribal Amendment Allowing Tribes to Establish Horse Slaughter Facilities Within Their Jurisdiction.”
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.

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Brian Patterson, President     Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribe, Inc.  United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"