



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2012:003

OPPOSITION TO THE ENACTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011 WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN TRIBES AS REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

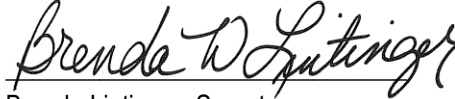
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** since the formation of the Union, the United States (U.S.) has recognized Indian Tribes as sovereign nations; and
- WHEREAS,** a unique government-to-government relationship exists between Indian Tribes and the Federal Government and is grounded in the U.S. Constitution, numerous treaties, statutes, Federal case law, regulations and executive orders that establish and define a trust relationship with Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** this relationship is derived from the political and legal relationship that Indian Tribes have with the Federal Government and is not based upon race; and
- WHEREAS,** on August 2, 2011, President Barak Obama signed into law the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011; and
- WHEREAS,** the BCA imposed caps on discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2012 and created a Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (Joint Committee) tasked with devising a plan to reduce the national deficit by an additional \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years; and
- WHEREAS,** as cuts are being made to federal programs that benefit Indian Tribes and/or fund Tribal programs, the effects of the BCA on Indian Country as a whole will be substantial; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S., through various forms of legal and political actions, further defined the federal trust responsibility and required meaningful consultation with Indian Tribes when any federal actions affect one or more Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the BCA was enacted and implemented without any such consultation with Indian Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors maintain that the enactment and implementation of the Budget Control Act of 2011, without any consultation with Indian Tribes, was and continues to be inconsistent with the Federal Governments special relationship with Indian Tribes and is considered a violation of the federal trust responsibility by Indian Country; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the United States President, Congress and the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to hold harmless federal program funding that directly benefits Indian Tribes and/or funds Tribal programs, or to consult with Indian Tribes on future budget reductions if Indian Country funding cannot be held harmless.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, on Thursday, November 10, 2011.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”