



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2012:004

SUPPORT OF THE SENECA NATION OF INDIANS IN ASSERTING ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OVER ITS TERRITORY

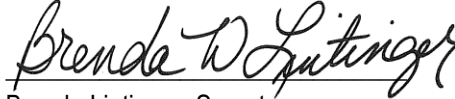
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1954, the State of New York coerced the Seneca Nation of Indians into signing an easement authorizing four lanes of the New York Thruway to pass through 300 acres of Seneca territory in exchange for a single payment of \$75,000; and
- WHEREAS,** the 1954 easement was never approved by the Federal Government as required under the Non-Intercourse Act, has been ruled void by both a federal magistrate and the Seneca Nation of Indians Peacemaker Court, and is in violation of the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seneca Nation Council rescinded its authorization for the easement in April 2007 and has since imposed on the State of New York a \$1 toll on each vehicle passing through the reservation, an arrangement which better reflects the current fair market value of the easement, which the State has refused to pay; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seneca Nation of Indians has called on President Barak Obama to assist the Nation in resolving the State of New York's unauthorized and uncompensated use of a right of way across the Seneca reservation in violation of federal law and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the Seneca Nation of Indians in their efforts to assert their sovereign rights and to recoup the fair market value of the easement over their territory; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the State of New York to acknowledge the sovereign authority of the Seneca Nation of Indians over their territories as well as the applicability federal laws to the easement, and objects to the State's refusal to pay fair value for continued use of the easement; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon President Barak Obama, as requested by the Seneca Nation of Indians, to interject and assist in the resolution of this conflict between the Nation and the State of New York, in accordance with the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, federal law, and international standards.

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”