



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2011:045

**DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL TRIBAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE WITHIN
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS**

- 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,** the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers a variety of opportunities to Indian Tribes through a number of programs and services, including Rural Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Extension Indian Reservation, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Women, Infants and Children, Forest Service, Food Safety and Inspection Service, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and
- WHEREAS,** the Keepseagle v. Vilsack Settlement Act requires the USDA to establish the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching to discuss issues related to participation of Native Americans farmers and ranchers in USDA farm loan programs and to provide recommendations concerning any changes to Farm Service Agency regulations or internal guidance or other measures that would eliminate barriers to program participation; and
- WHEREAS,** USDA has established various program-specific committees to advise the Secretary of Agriculture, yet few encompass those Tribal program recipients who utilize non-farming and non-ranching related USDA services; and
- WHEREAS,** the formation of a National Tribal Policy Advisory Committee structure within the USDA Office of Tribal Relations to provide recommendations on the broad range of USDA budget and policy-making decisions is essential to the government-to-government relations between USDA and Indian Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Secretary of Agriculture to establish, in consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes, a National Tribal Policy Advisory Committee structure within the United States Department of Agriculture Office of Tribal Relations to provide recommendations on the broad range of United States Department of Agriculture budget and policy-making decisions.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 10, 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Patterson".

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Lintinger".

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