USET Resolution No. 2011:047

SUPPORT THE NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION OF ARVO MIKKANEN AS UNITED STATES FEDERAL JUDGE FOR WESTERN OKLAHOMA

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, USET recognizes the critical role the United States (U.S.) District Courts play in the development of Federal Indian law, including both criminal and civil jurisdiction matters; and

WHEREAS, it is of great importance that the federal judiciary be familiar with Indian Country issues and with the fundamental principles of Federal Indian law, including the Federal Trust Responsibility and the importance of the government-to-government relationship between Indian Tribes and the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has nominated Assistant U.S. Attorney Arvo Mikkanen to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mikkanen has served this country for many years as a federal prosecutor and has vast experience in both Federal and Tribal law; and

WHEREAS, when confirmed, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mikkanen will be the only American Indian serving on the federal bench out of a total of 875 federal judgeships, and only the third American Indian in history to secure a federal judgeship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors fully endorses the confirmation of Assistant United States Attorney Arvo Mikkanen to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

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.

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

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