



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2013:024

A DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA

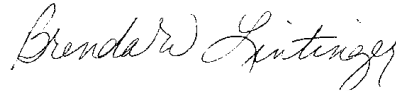
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions of the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly 1.4 million Indigenous people organized into 85 distinct groups live in Colombia, comprising about 3.4% of the total population (2005 census); and
- WHEREAS,** more than 70,000 Indigenous peoples were registered for individual or collective internal displacement during 2002-2008, and in 2009, more than 6,200 Indigenous people were violently expelled from their ancestral homelands, a number of which are rich in natural resources; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2011, 122 indigenous people, including children, were murdered, in 2012, 5,000 indigenous people forcibly displaced and 54 were murdered; and
- WHEREAS,** the current nature of today's armed conflicts in Colombia appear to be more rooted in territorial and natural resources involving international private capital, illegal trafficking, government forces and military and economic interventions from abroad; and
- WHEREAS,** as recognized by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples "UN Declaration", there is an urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic, and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories, and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories, and resources; and
- WHEREAS,** the Colombian government seeks to expand oil and gas drilling to raise production and its licensing blocks in increasingly remote areas, infringing on the ancestral territories of Indigenous groups within the Colombian government, with others receiving the financial benefit from these economic expansions; and
- WHEREAS,** it is recognized that the Indigenous peoples of Columbia are threatened, oppressed, and exploited, the member Tribes of USET desire to stand in peaceful solidarity and speak out in the interest of preserving the security, traditions, cultures, Tribal homelands and languages of the Indigenous People of Colombia; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors establish this declaration of support to stand in peaceful solidarity and speak out in the interest of preserving the security, traditions, culture, Tribal homelands and languages of the Indigenous People of Colombia.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 7, 2013.



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”