USET Resolution No. 2013:027

SUPPORTING CARCIERI FIX LEGISLATION, H.R. 279, SPONSORED BY CONGRESSMAN TOM COLE

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 U.S. Supreme Court’s 2009 decision in Carcieri v. Salazar unjustly created two classes of federally recognized Tribes – those that can take land into trust and those that cannot, harming the latter by creating confusion over the status of Tribal lands and jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the decision has spawned numerous frivolous lawsuits challenging land into trust transfers, and otherwise obstructing tribal economic development activities and other projects; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, USET has prioritized advocating for Congressional legislation to overturn the Carcieri decision; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Tom Cole has introduced legislation (H.R. 279) in the 113th Congress which would address USET’s concerns by restoring the right of all federally recognized Tribes to ask the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust, without any additional qualifications or restrictions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors applauds Congressman Cole for his outstanding leadership in seeking a Carcieri Fix; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors fully endorses H.R. 279, which overturns the Carcieri decision without adding harmful qualifications or additional restrictions on Tribal governments; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors directs USET staff to educate the Congress on the need for immediate passage of H.R. 279 and calls upon individual USET members to advocate for passage of H.R. 279.

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.

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Brian Patterson, President                  Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.            United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.