



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

---

### **Nashville, TN Office:**

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37214  
Phone: (615) 872-7900  
Fax: (615) 872-7417

### **Washington, DC Office:**

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585  
Washington, D.C., 20001  
Phone: (202) 624-3550  
Fax: (202) 393-5218

### **USET Resolution No. 2013:034**

#### **SUPPORT FOR USDA SMALL WATERSHED PROGRAM (PL-566)**

- 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's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Program (PL-566) is the federal program that funds small watershed restoration projects; and
- WHEREAS,** the Watershed Program is comprised of three elements, Watershed Surveys and Planning, Watershed Operations, and Watershed Rehabilitation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Watershed Program has been the funding source for hundreds of important federal and local partnership projects across the country, including the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project and a number of dam rehabilitation projects in Massachusetts; and
- WHEREAS,** during contentious Congressional budget debates in the spring of 2011, Congress eliminated funding for the PL-566 Watershed Program, which placed many of these projects in jeopardy of not being able to fulfill their partnership obligations with local sponsors; and
- WHEREAS,** Congressman William Keating of Massachusetts has pledged his support for the PL-566 program and by agreeing to introduce an amendment to an appropriations bill or the pending Farm Bill that would restore PL-566 funding; and
- WHEREAS,** there are 13 small watershed projects which affect USET member Tribes in Alabama, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and South Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the efforts of Congressman Keating to restore Watershed Program PL-566 funding and requests that Congress move forward in restoring these funds which will benefit USET member Tribes and all people living within and adjacent to these watershed projects; and, be it further

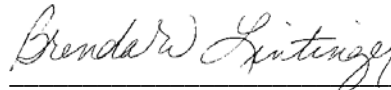
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors encourages its member Tribes to contact their members of Congress requesting support for Congressman Keating's amendment and to support the restoration of funding for Watershed Program PL-566.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Niagara Falls, NY, on Friday, May 17, 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”*