



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2013: 048

URGING THE CONGRESS TO AMEND THE BUY INDIAN ACT TO MAKE ITS APPLICATION MANDATORY AND TO EXTEND ITS PROVISIONS TO ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AGENCIES

- 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 Buy Indian Act provides that "[s]o far as may be practicable Indian labor shall be employed, and purchases of the products (including, but not limited to printing, notwithstanding any other law) of Indian industry may be made in open market in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior..." (25 U.S.C. 47); and
- WHEREAS,** the Buy Indian Act also applies to the Indian Health Service, but not to any other federal agencies; and
- WHEREAS,** the Buy Indian Act has fostered significant economic development opportunities for Natives and Native-owned businesses; and
- WHEREAS,** it would be in furtherance of the trust responsibility for the U.S. Congress to make implementation of the Buy Indian Act mandatory rather than discretionary and to apply it to all federal agencies with programs operating in Indian Country; 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** that the USET Board of Directors does hereby call upon the U.S. Congress to amend the Buy Indian Act to provide that its implementation shall be mandatory and to require that all federal agencies that have programs operating in Indian Country to comply with its terms.

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.