



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. 2014:038

ADVOCATING FOR FEDERAL POLICIES THAT STIMULATE TRIBAL ECONOMIES

- 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,** Tribal governments have responsibilities similar to states and local governments, but face unique challenges to generate revenues which support the delivery of vital programs and services to their citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** despite the availability of abundant natural resources in Indian Country and a rich cultural legacy that accords great value to self-determination, self-reliance, and independence, Native Americans suffer higher rates of unemployment, poverty, poor health, substandard housing, and associated social injustices than any other group in the United States (U.S.); and
- WHEREAS,** lack of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities facing Indian communities has resulted in a disproportionate reliance upon federal assistance that is increasingly insufficient to address the magnitude of needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. has an obligation to assist Indian Tribes in the creation of appropriate economic and political conditions with respect to Indian lands to encourage investment and facilitate economic ventures; and
- WHEREAS,** President Obama and members of Congress have expressed their commitment to support Tribal self-determination by encouraging job creation and economic development for Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** previous federal programs designed to stimulate job creation and economic development in Indian Country, such as accelerated depreciation, the Indian Employment Tax Credit and the New Market Tax Credit, have not been widely utilized and have had little impact in Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** the Administration, U.S. Congress, Indian Tribes, and intertribal organizations have been identifying new approaches and proposals to stimulate economic development in Indian Country, such as tax-free Empowerment Zones, Intertribal Trade Legislation, revised tax-exempt and private activity bond rules and other initiatives to increase investment, promote job creation, and stimulate economic activity in Indian Country; and

- WHEREAS,** USET presented a tax reform proposal in July 2013 to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the leadership of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees that set forth provisions intended to enhance investment, create jobs and foster the self-sufficiency of Tribal governments; 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 and will advocate for federal programs and policies enabling Indian Tribes to promote sovereignty and vigorous economies through investment and economic development to generate Tribal revenues.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 6, 2014.



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”