



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2014:041

PETITION FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS ISSUANCE FOR GRANT OF EASEMENT FOR THE TRIBES

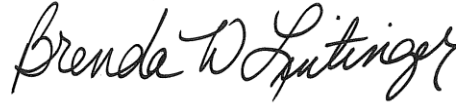
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors recognizes safe, reliable, and appropriate transportation infrastructure is essential for:
- providing access to health, education, and employment opportunities;
 - stimulating industrial, commercial, and residential growth on Tribal territories for the development of strong diverse Tribal economies;
 - the preservation of cultural, natural, and environmental resources; and
 - maintaining the safety of Tribal citizens, visitors, associates, and the general traveling public; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member Tribes have Bureau of Indian Affairs Roads ("BIA Roads"), for which the Tribes are required by the BIA to send a Grant of Easement in order to receive a Notice-to-Proceed for road construction activities; and
- WHEREAS,** the BIA Regional Office has informed the Tribes that a minimum of sixty (60) days is needed to review the right-of-way deliverables in order to issue the Right-of-Way Clearances for the Tribes, and no maximum time frame is provided; and
- WHEREAS,** several USET member Tribes have experienced prolonged delays exceeding two (2) years without final acceptance causing increased project costs, contract extensions and undue hardships in Tribal communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Transportation Committee recommends the Board of Directors request the Regional Director of the BIA report the status of right-of-way requests, reasons for delays, and provide an action plan to streamline this process; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests the Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Office to provide status reports on right-of-way requests and reasons for delays, as well as provide an action plan to streamline this process.

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”