



**USET Resolution No. 2009:065**

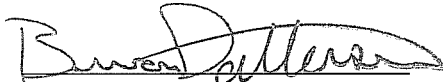
**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE STUDY OF INTERNET GAMING  
AND ITS POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR INDIAN TRIBES**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprising twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Director officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from each member Tribe's leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Constitution, U.S. Supreme Court decisions and various treaties, statutes, and regulations recognize the sovereignty of Indian Tribes and their status as distinct governments; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress, in 1988, enacted the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) to promote Tribal economic development, self-sufficiency and strong Tribal Governments; and
- WHEREAS,** IGRA acknowledged and confirmed the inherent sovereign powers of Tribal Governments; and
- WHEREAS,** under IGRA, Indian Tribes conduct gaming as an exercise of inherent sovereign authority as a source of revenue for Tribal Government functions and services and to provide for the general welfare of Tribal members; and
- WHEREAS,** many Indian Tribes have established successful gaming operations to create jobs and promote economic opportunities for Indian and non-Indian communities; and
- WHEREAS,** internet gaming is a rapidly expanding sector within the gaming industry, estimated to generate billions of dollars, with the majority of revenue originating from the United States;
- WHEREAS,** because the laws of the United States do not clearly allow Tribal Governments or United States companies to engage in the business of Internet gaming, all Internet gaming revenue from within the United States benefits individuals and companies outside the United States;
- WHEREAS,** legislation has been introduced during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress in the United States Senate (S.1597) and House of Representatives (H.R. 2266 and 2267) that would provide a mechanism for the legalization and regulation of various forms of internet gaming; and
- WHEREAS,** no consensus exists among Tribal governments about the merits of internet gaming and its potential benefits for, and competition with, Tribal gaming enterprises; and
- WHEREAS,** there has not been a comprehensive study specifically intended to evaluate the potential impacts of internet gaming on Tribal gaming operations in order to assist Tribal governments in deciding on how to proceed on this important issue; therefore be it

- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the immediate undertaking of a comprehensive study of internet gaming and the legislation introduced in the United States Senate and House of Representatives, including the potential benefits for, and competition with, Tribal gaming operations; and, be it further
  
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors will actively engage the sponsors of the House and Senate legislation in order to ensure the interests of Tribal Governments and Tribal gaming operations are protected; and, be it further
  
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors that will encourage organizations representing Tribal Governments, including the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) to engage in similar discussions in order to protect the interests of Tribal Governments.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Hollywood, FL, on Thursday, October 29, 2009.



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



Robert McGhee, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*