



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2014:051

RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) SECRETARY KATHLEEN SEBELIUS FOR HER DEDICATION AND EFFORTS TO ADVANCING INDIAN HEALTH

- 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 (U.S.) Government and each federally recognized Indian Tribe has a government-to-government relationship grounded in numerous historical, political, legal, moral, and ethical considerations; and
- WHEREAS,** the importance of Tribal Consultation with Indian Tribal Governments was affirmed through Presidential Memoranda and Executive Order; and
- WHEREAS,** Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has been diligent in ensuring all HHS Agencies comply with the overall requirement for consultation by calling for each HHS Agency that works with Tribes to develop a Tribal Consultation Policy; and
- WHEREAS,** further demonstrating her dedication to Tribal Nations, Secretary Sebelius created the first cabinet level Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee to assist in developing and advancing Indian Country health priorities for the Agency; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Advisory Committee has been a model that must continue with future Administrations; and
- WHEREAS,** in addition to the development of the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee, Secretary Sebelius, through her work with individual Indian Tribes and the Annual Tribal Budget and Policy Consultation, has successfully supported increases to the underfunded Indian Health Service Budget; and
- WHEREAS,** since her appointment, the Indian Health Service Budget increased significantly where other HHS Agency budgets have decreased; and
- WHEREAS,** her support in advancing Indian Country priorities and in following the U.S. Congress' directive to fully fund Contract Support Costs (CSC) and to develop a plan to further consult on CSC claims, the Secretary made a commitment to settle all CSC claims against the Agency in a swift and equitable manner; and

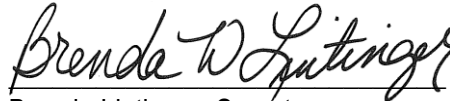
- WHEREAS,** Secretary Sebelius was not only accessible to Tribal Leaders and health staff, she made in-person visits to many Indian Tribes in order to fully understand the needs of Indian Country; and
- WHEREAS,** on April 11, 2014, Secretary Sebelius announced that she would be moving on from her position as Department of Health and Human Services Secretary; and
- WHEREAS,** her leadership and support will be greatly missed; 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 expresses its deepest appreciation to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius for her outstanding service to Indian Country and advancing Indian Health priorities.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Bar Harbor, ME, June 4, 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”