



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### **USET Resolution No. 2014:057**

#### **REQUEST THAT THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS EASTERN REGION RECONSIDER THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE SOCIAL WORKER POSITION AND FILL WITHIN THE REGION**

- 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,** many USET member Tribes operate Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funded contracts to support Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) programs, social services programs, burial assistance programs, emergency assistance programs, and general assistance programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member Tribes rely heavily on the support and guidance of the BIA Eastern Region Social Worker in administering the services and contracts listed above; and
- WHEREAS,** the BIA Eastern Region Social Worker position has been vacant since April 30, 2013 and the USET Social Services Committee was informed in February 2014 that the position would not be filled and the Southern Region Social Worker would be taking over the Eastern Region responsibilities in addition to current responsibilities; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET member Tribes have had great difficulty in contacting the Southern Region Social Worker for guidance and technical assistance for reporting requirements and site visits; 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 find it essential to have a Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Region Social Worker to provide support, guidance, and technical assistance to all USET Member Tribes; and be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors request that the Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Region reconsider its decision to consolidate the Eastern and Southern Region social worker position and re-advertise the position within the Eastern Region.

#### **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.