USET Resolution No. 2014:061

THE INHERENT SOVEREIGN RIGHT FOR A TRIBE TO HOLD TERRITORY AND TRUST LANDS

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, Indian Tribes hold a unique status in the United States with the rights of sovereign nations; and

WHEREAS, this relationship has its underpinnings in the U.S. Constitution and in numerous treaties, laws and other agreements and understandings between the United States and Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, Tribal inherent sovereignty pre-dates the establishment of the United States; and

WHEREAS, many attributes of sovereignty are inextricably linked to territory; and

WHEREAS, Indian Tribes possess an ancient and enduring relationship with their ancestral lands; and

WHEREAS, central historic feature of the United States – Tribal relationship has been the theft of Indian lands by the United States, with the accompanying direct erosion of Tribal sovereignty and cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of Tribal lands is a fundamental trust obligation of the United States and the holding of Tribal lands is essential to the full recognition of Tribal sovereignty, as well as critically important for the prosperity and vitality of Native communities; 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 it is the position of the USET Board of Directors affirms that all Tribes have a fundamental right to Tribal territory including trust lands, over which they may exercise sovereignty as an inherent attribute of that sovereignty culture; and

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors recognizes that Tribal territory, including trust lands, is critical to the prosperity and survival of Tribes and Tribal culture; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors shall advance this right in all appropriate venues including in trust reform initiatives.
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”