



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### USET Resolution No. 2014:061

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

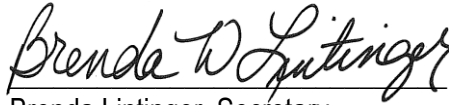
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors 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”*