

# United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### **USET Resolution No. 2016:003**

# SUPPORT FOR TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'S DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS

WHEREAS,	United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of
	twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Nations' leadership; and

WHEREAS, the United States (U.S.) Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) administers housing and community development programs that respond to the housing needs of Tribal governments and their Tribal citizens, including those of USET Member Tribal Nations; and

**WHEREAS,** the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of the ONAP, a key position within HUD, is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, HUD has a responsibility to ensure the new Deputy Assistant Secretary of the ONAP is poised to engage in effective collaboration with Tribal Nations and both regional, and national Tribal organizations, such as the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC); and

WHEREAS, NAIHC is the only organization exclusively representing the housing interests of American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) people who reside in Indian communities and is guided by a 10-member Board of Directors representing Native housing entities in nine geographical regions throughout the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS,** because of its national reach, representation, and charge, NAIHC is uniquely positioned to advise HUD during the vetting and selection process for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of ONAP; 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 encourages and endorses the participation of the National American Indian Housing Council in the vetting and selection of candidates for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Native American Programs.

## **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, on October 28, 2015.

Brian Patterson, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Lynn Malerba, Secretary

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.