



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2016:018


SUPPORT FOR THE TOXIC EXPOSURE RESEARCH ACT

- WHEREAS,** USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the U.S. military at higher levels per capita than any other ethnic group; and
- WHEREAS,** over the course of their service to our nation, many members of the Armed Forces, including American Indians and Alaska Natives, were exposed to toxic substances; and
- WHEREAS,** while exposed veterans are suffering severe and mysterious health conditions as a result of exposure, it has become clear that exposure to toxic substances has serious health implications for the children and grandchildren of these veterans, as well; and
- WHEREAS,** the descendants of exposed veterans are experiencing a number of adverse health conditions, including birth defects, learning disabilities, cancers, heart disease, diabetes, and autoimmune disease; and
- WHEREAS,** many of these health conditions are rare forms of extremely rare or unusual medical conditions that are not commonly recognized or easily treated; and
- WHEREAS,** research into these conditions is imperative so that doctors and families have the resources necessary to diagnose and treat these individuals; and
- WHEREAS,** the Toxic Exposure Research Act has been introduced with bi-partisan support in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives as S. 901 and H.R. 1769, respectively; and
- WHEREAS,** the Toxic Exposure Research Act would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to select a VA medical center to serve as the national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the biological children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces that are related to such exposure; and
- WHEREAS,** the Toxic Exposure Research Act would direct the Secretary of Defense to declassify documents related to any known incident in which not less than one hundred members of the military were exposed to a toxic substance that resulted in at least one case of disability associated with that toxic substance; and

- WHEREAS,** the Toxic Exposure Research Act would direct the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health & Human Services to conduct a national outreach and education campaign directed at active duty troops, veterans and their family members, and public health care professionals; 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 SPF Board of Directors supports the Toxic Exposure Research Act and urges both chambers of the United States Congress to work to secure its immediate passage.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 11, 2016.


Brian Patterson, President
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund


Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
USET Sovereignty Protection Fund

“Because there is strength in Unity”