



# USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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## USET SPF Resolution No. 2017 SPF:019

### **REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ENSURE THE INCLUSION OF INDIAN COUNTRY AS AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ARE ADDRESSED**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes 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,** the citizens and residents of American Indian Tribal Nations and Alaska Native Villages are the most underserved communities in the United States of America with respect to infrastructure; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal governments have responsibilities similar to states and local governments, but face unique challenges to generate revenues which support infrastructure development for their citizens and residents; and
- WHEREAS,** a unique government-to-government and trust relationship exists between federally recognized Indian Tribes and the Federal government, which is grounded in the U.S. Constitution, numerous treaties, statutes, Federal case law, regulations and executive order that establish and define a trust relationship with Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the trust responsibility requires the United States of America to assist Tribal Nations with the development of infrastructure and to ensure they receive parity or the same treatment provided to other American communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the development of infrastructure on Tribal lands has the potential to be a catalyst to fuel economic development, job creation for both native and non-native residents, and help increase Tribal self-determination; and
- WHEREAS,** In his inaugural address, President Trump reiterated his campaign promise to invest in America's aging infrastructure, vowing to "build new roads, highways, bridges, airports, tunnels and railways" across the country; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribal Nations can advance their infrastructure goals through President Trump's infrastructure plan, Congressional action, and infrastructure investment in Indian Country; 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** that the USET Board of Directors requests that the United States Congress to enact legislation that would: (1) promote infrastructure development on Tribal lands; (2) establish self-determination provisions for Indian infrastructure projects; and (3) appropriate funding for Tribal Nations to plan and develop capacity to develop and manage American Indian infrastructure on Tribal lands; and be it further

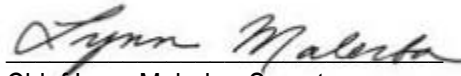
**RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors requests the Trump Administration and federal agencies to consult with Indian Tribes to support planning, capacity, and infrastructure development; and to ensure representation and inclusion of USET member Tribes in infrastructure programs.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 9, 2017.



Chief Kirk Francis, Sr., President  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund



Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes  
Sovereignty Protection Fund