



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2018 SPF:022


SUPPORT FOR USET SPF MEMBER TRIBAL NATIONS CHOOSING TO JOIN LITIGATION EFFORTS AGAINST OPIOID DRUG DISTRIBUTORS, PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG MANUFACTURERS, AND WHOLESALERS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) 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,** Native people and Tribal Nations are disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic ravaging the country; and
- WHEREAS,** the opioid epidemic poses a direct threat to the continuation of Tribal culture, identity and citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** the opioid epidemic forces Tribal governments to incur the costs of providing increased medical care and services, social services, child welfare, law enforcement, and public safety; and
- WHEREAS,** the conduct of large pharmaceutical companies directly contributes to the opioid epidemic and has caused a crisis in many Tribal communities, threatening the health, welfare, economic security, and political integrity of Tribal governments and their citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** litigation against pharmaceutical drug manufacturers, opioid drug distributors, and wholesalers will force these companies to change their current practices and to reimburse Tribal communities for some of the harm caused by the opioid epidemic; 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 member Tribal Nations decisions to engage in litigation against pharmaceutical drug manufacturers, opioid drug distributors, and wholesalers, for their respective roles in the opioid epidemic.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 8, 2018.


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


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

Because there is Strength in Unity