

February 1: USET SPF Testimony for the Record of SCIA Agribusiness Hearing

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs,

The United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is pleased to provide the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) with the [attached](#) testimony for the record of its January 17<sup>th</sup> hearing, "Breaking New Ground in Agribusiness Opportunities in Indian Country." As it considers the reauthorization of the Farm Bill nears in 2018, Congress must use this opportunity to uphold the federal trust responsibility and fully engage with Tribal Nations in the development and negotiation of this important legislation.

USET SPF supports and echoes the comments of Tribal Nations and organizations, including the Native Farm Bill Coalition. We would like underscore the need to address a wide range of priorities for Tribal Nations within the Farm Bill, including:

- Tribal Parity
- Tribal Set-Asides and Technical Assistance
- Traditional Foods
- Extending Self-Governance to SNAP

As this nation's first farmers, ranchers, and stewards of the land, Tribal Nations must be engaged as full partners in the development of the Farm Bill reauthorization. The 2018 Farm Bill negotiations must include and incorporate perspectives from Indian Country to afford parity, opportunity, and consistency under the federal food and agriculture laws, funding policies, and programs. Though there have been great strides made for Indian Country agriculture by individuals and organizations in previous Farm Bills, there are still many steps needed to reach full parity in 2018.

Should you have questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

**Liz Malerba** ~ *Citizen of the Mohegan Tribe*

*Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs*

**United South and Eastern Tribes**

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