UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. 91-22

USSET SUPPORT FOR S. 1315, THE INDIAN FEDERAL RECOGNITION 
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT OF 1991

WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated 
(USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of 
nineteen (19) federally recognized tribes; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET, Inc. Board of 
Directors officially represent the intentions of each 
member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised 
of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Commerce Clause of the United Stated Constitution 
vests the power of recognition of Indian tribes with 
the Congress, a power which, over the years, the 
courts have ruled may also be exercised by the 
Executive Branch of the government; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, at the urging of the Congress, Indian 
groups, and the American Indian Policy Review 
Commission, the Secretary of the Interior promulgated 
regulations establishing criteria and procedures for 
the federal recognition of Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, since 1978, the Senate Select Committee on Indian 
Affairs has held oversight hearings on Interior’s 
handling of the federal recognition process, and has 
found that the process is costly for petitioners, 
inadequately staffed, and somewhat arbitrary; and

WHEREAS, Senator John McCain has introduced (and Senators 
Thad Cochran and Daniel K. Inouye co-sponsored) S. 
1315, the Indian Federal Recognition Administrative 
Procedures Act of 1991, which would establish a 
Commission on Indian Recognition to review petitions 
submitted by Indian groups for federal recognition, 
sets timeliness for the review and decision process, 
provides for appeals of adverse decisions, provides 
for increased funding for the process, and provides 
an end date certain by which time all Indian groups 
must have filed a petition for recognition; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the USET member tribes that a 
fair, impartial, strong, and efficient process be 
established for federal recognition of Indian groups, 
that the process be open to all groups seeking such 
recognition, and that a final end date be established 
so that federal recognition can be established 
nationwide once and for all;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the USET Board does hereby express its support for S. 1315, and does hereby authorize the Executive Director to take such actions as are appropriate to express organizational support for S. 1315 with decision-makers and the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USET Board does hereby encourage Senators McCain, Cochran, and Inouye to work with the executive branch in determining if the creation of an independent commission is essential to establishment of a fair and uniform federal recognition process, or if such process could be implemented fairly and uniformly within the Department of the Interior.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Board of Directors Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Lafayette, Louisiana, on November 13, 1991.

[Signatures]

Eudie L. Tullis, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Lovelin Poncho, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.