

## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

## Resolution USET 97:44

## TAX EXEMPT FINANCING FOR INDIAN NATIONS

- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET 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, because of their economic circumstances and restrictions on their ability to pledge their land, many Indian tribes are unable to procure financing for governmental projects on reasonable terms and at acceptable interest rates; and
- **WHEREAS**, the United States historically has assisted state and local governments by allowing them to issue tax-free bonds, thereby substantially reducing their borrowing costs; and
- WHEREAS, the ability of Indian nations to issue tax-exempt securities is significantly constrained by the numerous technical restrictions and limitations in federal tax law; therefore, be it
- **RESOLVED**, that USET supports legislative efforts to liberalize the tax-exempt financing rules set forth in the Internal Revenue Code, as they apply to Indian tribes; and be it further
- **RESOLVED**, that USET urges each of its member tribes to communicate their support for the liberalization of the tax-exempt financing rules to the elected officials representing the states where their reservations and territories are located in order to enhance the ability of Indian nations to procure financing; and further be it
- **RESOLVED**, that USET directs the Taxation Committee to coordinate with other organizations engaged in efforts to favorably modify the tax-exempt financing rules, such as the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians.

## **CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Washington Impact Week meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington DC on Wednesday, February, 5, 1997.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary

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