



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

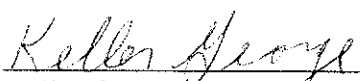
Resolution No. USET 98:15

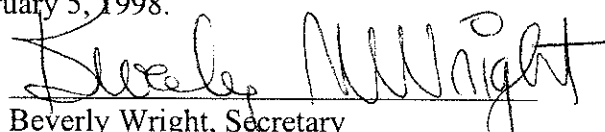
OPPOSING THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS IN INDIAN COUNTRY FROM THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- WHEREAS**, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising 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 comprises delegates from the member tribe's leadership; and
- WHEREAS**, President Clinton, in the historic Executive Order, has reinforced the federal policy supporting self-determination and self-governance for Indian tribes and has directed federal agencies to deal with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis; and
- WHEREAS**, the Department of Justice has failed to follow the directives set forth in President Clinton's Executive order supporting tribal self-determination, and government-to-government relations with Indian tribes; and
- WHEREAS**, the Department of Justice has failed to fulfill its trust responsibilities and commitment to strengthening and assisting Indian tribal governments in their development and to promoting Indian self-governance; and
- WHEREAS**, the Department of Justice has failed to consult with tribal governments concerning law enforcement priorities; has failed to defend the lawful exercise of tribal governmental powers; and has failed to assist Indian tribes in the development of their law enforcement systems, tribal courts, and traditional justice systems; and
- WHEREAS**, the Department of Justice has failed to adhere to its stated policy of government-to-government relationship; its trust duties and responsibilities to Indian tribes; and its commitment to the protection and preservation of tribal rights; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed transfer of Indian Country law enforcement responsibilities from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Department of Justice will further erode tribal sovereignty, and would not serve the best interests of Indian tribes, therefore be it
- RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., opposes the proposed transfer of responsibility for the administration of tribal law enforcement and tribal judicial functions from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Department of Justice.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the annual USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, February 5, 1998.


Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"