



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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Resolution No. USET 2000:34

### **SUPPORTING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 701, THE CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 1999**

- WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising 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 comprises delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board of Directors is dedicated and committed to the needs of its tribes and their members to the goal of preserving the sovereignty, inherent rights, integrity, and stability of our Indian children and families; and
- WHEREAS,** USET gives thanks to the Creator for the abundant natural resources that our member tribes steward; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member tribes find it increasingly difficult to manage these resources for the welfare of our people within the funding available to us for this purpose; and
- WHEREAS,** the laws of the United States provide for the distribution of certain excise tax revenues from oil production and the sale of hunting and fishing equipment to the states for conservation purposes; and
- WHEREAS,** tribal governments, despite their contributions to conservation that benefit tribal members and non-members alike, have been excluded from these distributions; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. House of Representatives has marked up H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999, which amends certain Federal programs that provide funding for conservation purposes; and
- WHEREAS,** H.R. 701 does advance the interests of tribes by providing access to funding sources previously available only to states (Land and Water Conservation Fund) and by creating new funding sources (Federal and Indian Lands Restoration); and
- WHEREAS,** despite these positive provisions, H.R. 701 would serve tribes more equitably if both of the above funding sources were provided to tribes in greater proportion, reflecting the magnitude of conservation efforts on those lands; and
- WHEREAS,** treating all federally recognized tribal governments collectively as a state for distribution of Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars, as proposed by Title II of H.R. 701, and providing for competition amongst tribes for those dollars, leaves individual tribes with very little funding; and
- WHEREAS,** a set-aside of 10 percent of dollars appropriated for the Federal and Indian Lands Restoration Program of Title VI for which all Indian tribes must compete, leaves tribes similarly short-changed; and
- WHEREAS,** H.R. 701 would amend the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly called the Pittman-Robertson Act) to provide aid to places like DC, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the

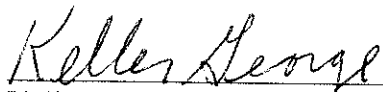
*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

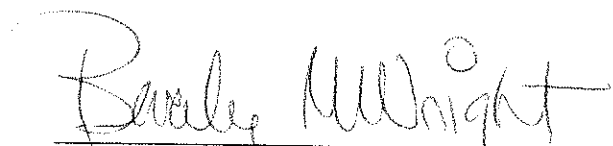
Northern Mariana Islands, but American Indian tribes remain ineligible despite the fact that we do as much or more than many jurisdictions in the arena of wildlife restoration, in addition to supporting the activities that generate the money in the first place; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the USET Board of Directors demands that Congress demonstrate fairness in their distribution of Outer Continental Shelf revenues by amending H.R. 701 to authorize the funding of tribes at 5 percent or more of the total dollars available from the Land and Water Conservation Fund; at 20 percent or more of the total allocation for the protection of significant tribal resources under the Federal and Indian Lands Restoration program; and to fund tribes under Pittman-Robertson at a more equitable distribution level commensurate with the land area occupied by tribes.

#### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Washington DC Thursday, February 3, 2000.

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

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