



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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Resolution No. USET 2000:46

### **OPPOSITION TO H.R. 3125 AND S. 692**

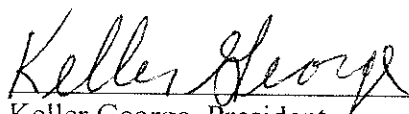
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) was established in order to protect and promote the health, safety, welfare, education, economic development and employment opportunities and the preservation of cultural and natural resources of its member tribes and all of Indian country; and
- WHEREAS,** the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) was passed by the United States Congress in order to provide clear standards and regulations for the conduct of gaming on Indian lands; and
- WHEREAS,** in passing the IGRA, Congress stated that "a principal goal of Federal Indian policy is to promote tribal economic development, tribal self-sufficiency, and strong tribal government"; and
- WHEREAS,** the language of the IGRA expressly includes the expansion of Class II Bingo participation through the use of technology and telecommunications such as the Internet; and
- WHEREAS,** the IGRA, in its legislative history specifically encouraged Indian tribes to expand their Class II Bingo games by using technology such as the Internet; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress is currently considering H.R. 3125 and S. 692, Internet gaming prohibition legislation that would prohibit Indian tribes from conducting Class II Bingo over the Internet, while at the same time expanding Internet gaming opportunities for non-Indian gaming interests by providing exemptions for state lotteries, horse racing, dog racing, jai alai, and fantasy sports leagues; and
- WHEREAS,** as part of Congress' consideration of the prohibition legislation, a compromise was reached and announced that did not preserve the full range of tribal governmental gaming rights as set forth in the IGRA, but was instead, a compromise of tribal sovereign rights; and
- WHEREAS,** this prohibition legislation is proceeding very quickly through Congress with no opportunity for review by the House Resources Committee and the House Committee of Jurisdiction for Indian affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has been made aware of these events and finds that any attempt to diminish tribal sovereign rights through the passage of legislation designed to prohibit tribal governmental gaming rights as provided for in the IGRA, are contrary to the principles that USET stands for; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors does hereby support all lobbying and litigation efforts to preserve tribal governmental rights to conduct Class II Bingo over the Internet; be it further

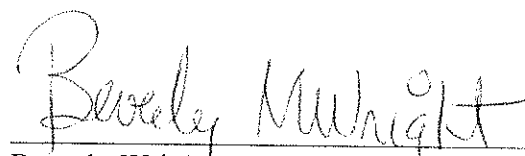
*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors does hereby call upon all the congressional delegations of its member tribes to oppose H.R. 3125 and S. 692 and to request that the bill be referred to the House Resources Committee for consideration, and that a hearing on the matter be held therein.

**CERTIFICATION**

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

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

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