



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 2000:49


SUPPORT OF H.R. 2992—FORCED LABOR AGREEMENTS

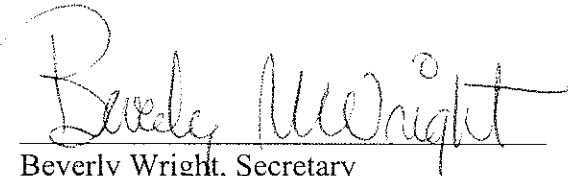
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-three (23) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the state of California has refused to conclude a gaming compact with certain Indian nations unless such nations agree to allow the unionization of their labor force; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress, when it enacted the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, never intended to force Indian nations to submit to the collective bargaining process as a condition to obtaining a gaming compact;
- WHEREAS,** each Indian nation, as an independent and sovereign government, is free to decide whether and to what extent it will communicate or negotiate with labor organizations, and the United States should never interfere with or abridge this sovereign right; and
- WHEREAS,** Representative Hayworth, in response to the position taken by the State of California, has introduced H.R. 2992, which would prohibit forced labor agreements as a condition to securing a tribal/state compact for Class III gaming on Indian lands; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports H.R. 2992 and all efforts by Representative Hayworth to preserve the sovereignty and integrity of Indian nations; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors directs the Taxation and Legislation Committee to make these views known among elected officials and to work to ensure the successful passage of this legislation; be it further
- RESOLVED** that each USET member tribe is directed to bring this issue before their respective governing bodies and devise a strategy to support H.R. 2992 and combat all illegal efforts to infringe upon tribal sovereignty; be it further
- RESOLVED** that USET explore the possibility of opening a dialogue with labor organizations for purposes of discussing issues of mutual interest and concern, with the clear understanding that each Indian nation, as a sovereign government, is at liberty to decline to meet, communicate and/or negotiate with labor unions and that USET will never endorse compulsory collective bargaining in Indian Country or any measure that would abridge the sovereign right of a tribe to completely regulate economic affairs within its borders.

“Because there is strength in Unity”

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed during the USET 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.