



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2000:63

### **H.R. 1814 AND RELATED PROPOSALS**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-four (24) 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,** Congressman Istook (R-OK) has introduced legislation—H.R. 1814—which, if enacted would require the U.S. Department of Interior to remove tribal lands of a given Indian nation from trust status unless such nation, the state government and all affected municipalities have an agreement in place for the payment and collection of state taxes on retail sales made on such trust land to non-Indians; and
- WHEREAS,** certain special interests from the convenience store and petroleum marketing industries are also advocating that Congress enact legislation requiring Indian nations to serve as tax collectors for state and local governments; and
- WHEREAS,** the House Resources Committee intends to mark up H.R. 1814 on June 28, 2000; and
- WHEREAS** H.R. 1814 and the tax proposals advanced by the convenience store owners and petroleum marketers threaten the sovereignty of Indian nations and their treaty rights to the free use and enjoyment of their land; and
- WHEREAS,** H.R. 1814, if enacted, would impair, if not completely thwart, the ability of Indian nations to hold lands in trust by effectively giving states veto power over land into trust applications; and
- WHEREAS,** H.R. 1814 and the tax proposals advanced by the convenience store owners and petroleum marketers threaten: (1) sensitive discussions currently underway between several Indian nations and their respective state governments regarding the collection and payment of sales and excise taxes, and (2) existing and future tax and gaming compacts between Indian nations and state governments; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors unalterably opposes H.R. 1814, the tax proposals advanced by the convenience store owners and petroleum marketers and all other threatened intrusions on tribal sovereignty and urges the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to reject this proposed legislation; be it further
- RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors directs each of its member nations to promptly communicate their opposition to H.R. 1814 and the tax proposals advanced by the convenience store owners and petroleum marketers to the members of the House Resources Committee and to the elected officials representing the states where their reservations and territories are located; be it further

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

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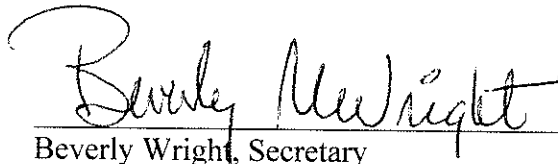
**RESOLVED**, the USET Board of Directors directs the Commercial Law, Legislation, and Economic Development Committee to coordinate opposition to H.R. 1814 and the tax proposals advanced by the convenience store owners and petroleum marketers with other organizations engaged in the effort to defeat this pernicious legislative proposal, such as the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Houston, Texas on Thursday, June 8, 2000.



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



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