



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 2001:12


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 empower the federal government to compel Indian nations to pay state and local taxes; and
- WHEREAS,** certain special interest groups representing 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,** 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) to violate several treaties between various Indian nations and the Federal Government and the Indian Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution; (2) sensitive discussions currently underway between several Indian nations and their respective state governments regarding the collection and payment of sales and excise taxes; and (3) existing and future tax and gaming compacts between Indian nations and state governments; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** USET unalterably opposes HR 1814, the tax proposals advanced by the convenience store owners and petroleum marketers and all other threatened intrusions on Tribal sovereignty and again urges the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to continue to reject this proposed legislation and cease these perpetual attacks on Indian nations; be it further
- RESOLVED,** USET 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
- RESOLVED,** that USET 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.

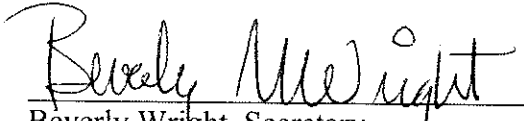
“Because there is strength in Unity”

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Verona, NY on Thursday, November 2, 2000.



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



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