



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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Resolution No. USET 2001:014

### **PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION CONCERNING STATE SALES AND EXCISE TAXES**

**WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of 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 is comprised of delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** on August 2, 2001, Representative Young introduced H.R. 2726, a bill that would require Indian nations to serve as tax collectors for state and local governments and that would authorize the Interior Department to compel Indian nations to collect such taxes; and

**WHEREAS,** certain convenience store owners, petroleum marketers and other special interests are attempting to win support for H.R. 2726; and

**WHEREAS,** H.R. 2726 threatens the sovereignty of Indian nations and their treaty rights to the free use and enjoyment of their land; and

**WHEREAS,** H.R. 2726 would also: (1) violate several treaties between various Indian nations and the Federal Government and the Indian Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution; (2) disrupt 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) undermine existing and future tax compacts between Indian nations and state governments; and

**WHEREAS,** Congress would never require states to collect similar taxes, as under H.R. 2726, from other states; and

**WHEREAS,** H.R. 2726 is inherently unfair and arguably constitutionally prejudicial; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that USET unalterably opposes H.R. 2726 and all other tax proposals being advanced by the convenience store owners and petroleum marketers 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; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** that USET requests each of its member nations to promptly communicate their opposition to H.R. 2726 and other 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; and, be it further resolved


*“Because there is strength in Unity”*

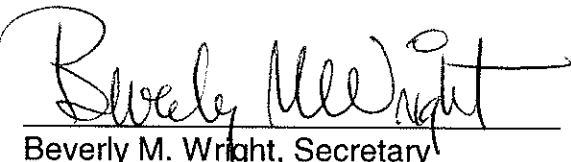
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**RESOLVED** that USET directs the Commercial Law, Legislation, and Economic Development Committee to coordinate opposition to H.R. 2726 and the other tax proposals advanced by the convenience store owners and petroleum marketers with other organizations engaged in the effort to defeat this pernicious legislative proposal.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Miami, FL, on Thursday, October 25, 2001.

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

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