



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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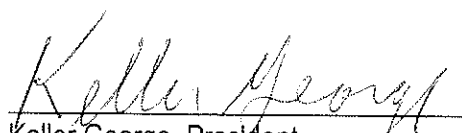
USET Resolution No. 2005:018

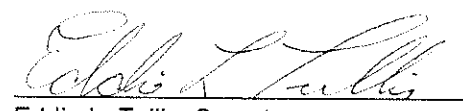
### PROTECTION OF PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD CALVING GROUNDS

- 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 comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Indian Tribes are sovereign indigenous nations, with rights of self-government pre-dating the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, and numerous Presidential directives acknowledge the sovereign status of Indian nations as governments; and
- WHEREAS,** the Gwich'in Athabascan Indians of Northeast Alaska and Northwest Canada (the Gwich'in) have relied on caribou for subsistence and continue today to subsist on the Porcupine Caribou Herd for the nutritional, cultural and spiritual needs of their people; and
- WHEREAS,** the Gwich'in have an inherent right to continue their way of life, and this right is recognized and affirmed by the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which both provide " . . . In no case may a people be deprived of their own means of subsistence;" and
- WHEREAS,** the health and productivity of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, its availability to Gwich'in communities, the future of the Gwich'in people and their cultural survival are endangered by proposed oil and gas exploration and development in the calving and post-calving grounds in the Artic National Wildlife Refuge-Coastal Plain; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the United States Congress and the President to recognize the right of the Gwich'in people to continue to live their way of life by prohibiting development in the calving and post-calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the 1002 area of the Artic National Wildlife Refuge be made wilderness to achieve this end.

### CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting at which a quorum was present in Arlington, VA on Thursday, February 10, 2005.

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

  
Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*