



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

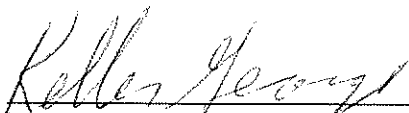
USET Resolution No. 2005:019

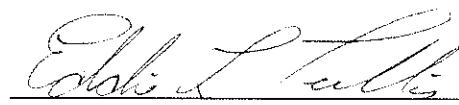
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE JENKINS ACT AND THE PROTECTION OF TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERTRIBAL TRADE

- 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 that pre-date the formation of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, and numerous Presidential orders and directives acknowledge the sovereign status of Indian nations as governments; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2004, legislation was introduced in Congress that would have amended the Jenkins Act (a statute that deals with the interstate sale of tobacco products) without adequate regard for, or protection of, Indian treaties, Tribal jurisdiction, self-determination or sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS,** despite its potential Tribal impacts, Congress considered this proposed legislation without convening a hearing for purposes of affording Tribal representatives and/or Indian law experts the opportunity to express their views on this issue; and
- WHEREAS,** many states, including the State of Maine, have impeded Tribal economic development efforts and threatened the sovereignty of Indian nations by attempting to unlawfully regulate and tax transactions between sovereign Indian nations and third parties; and
- WHEREAS,** it is the duty and responsibility of the federal government to protect the sovereign right of Indian Tribes to engage in free trade thereby promoting tribal self-sufficiency and self-determination; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** that the USET Board of Directors requests that Congress respect the sovereignty of Tribes and solicit Tribal perspectives when considering legislation that may have an economic impact on Indian nations, such as amendments to the Jenkins Act; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** that the USET Board of Directors requests the United States Government uphold its trust obligation to Indian nations by protecting the sanctity and integrity of intertribal trade and protect such commercial transactions from unlawful state interference.

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”