USET Resolution No. 2005:057

REQUEST THAT PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY PANEL ON FEDERAL TAX REFORM ACKNOWLEDGE THE NON-TAXABLE STATUS OF TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

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 Executive orders and directives acknowledge the sovereign status of Indian Tribes as sovereign governments; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2005, President Bush signed an Executive Order (as amended on June 16, 2005) establishing the nine-member President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order directs the Advisory Panel to prepare and submit a report by September 30, 2005, with revenue neutral policy options for reforming the Internal Revenue Code; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Panel is authorized to conduct meetings and solicit information and advise from all Americans, including state, local and Tribal governments in preparing this report; and

WHEREAS, certain legislative proposals for tax reform currently under consideration in Congress ignore the governmental status of Indian Tribes and would impose tax on Tribal revenues; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors urges the Advisory Panel to consult with Indian Tribes and respect their sovereignty and status as governments in crafting recommendations regarding a reformation of the federal tax code and, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors contact the Advisory Panel, in writing or otherwise provide information regarding the unique nature of the Tribes' government-to-government relationship and urge that the Panel's report acknowledge the non-taxable status of federally recognized Tribes.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting at which a quorum was present in Mashantucket, CT on Thursday, June 30, 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"