



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.


USET Resolution No. 2006:021

ENDORISING PROPOSED UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC. STATEMENT ON TRUST REFORM LEGISLATION


- 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,** over the past ten (10) years, the *Cobell v. Norton et al*, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Civil Action Number 96-1285 (RCL) litigation has been underway on behalf of 500,000 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) beneficiaries and has exposed extensive history of federal government mismanagement of the Indian trust; and
- WHEREAS,** the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Resources Committee have introduced Trust Reform Legislation (S. 1439/H.R. 4322) that, if passed, would settle the *Cobell* lawsuit and reform the Department of Interior's (DOI) administration of the federal trust responsibility; and
- WHEREAS,** USET has testified before Congress offering preliminary support for this Trust Reform Legislation and has provided formal comments for improving upon the legislation; and
- WHEREAS,** USET's congressional testimony stressed that the *Cobell* litigation and the DOI's redirecting of funding to the Office of the Special Trustee (OST) has had immediate and harmful impact on Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) programs such as law enforcement, education, welfare assistance and other vital programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the DOI continues to redirect funding from dramatically under-funded BIA programs to pay for expenses related to the *Cobell* case and for costly DOI reorganization to the detriment of essential tribal programs; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors endorses the issuance of a public statement at the close of Impact Week 2006 that expresses USET's support for proposed legislation to settle the *Cobell* case and reform the DOI's administration of trust functions; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors authorizes the USET Executive Director to take available and necessary steps to ensure that this legislation incorporates the comments submitted by USET and to help rally national tribal support for this Trust Reform Legislation.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 9, 2006.



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”