



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2006:055

SENATOR SCHUMER'S ATTACK ON THE FEE-TO-TRUST APPLICATION PROCESS

- 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,** following the Supreme Court's recent denial of a petition for certiorari in the Cayuga land claim case, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) wrote a letter to James Cason, Acting Assistant Secretary for Bureau of Indian Affairs, urging opposition to the Cayuga and Oneida Nations' land into trust applications for their respective land claim areas; and
- WHEREAS,** Senator Schumer indicated that the Supreme Court's decision in *Cayuga's* case might "possibly extinguish" all Indian land claims and that it was "entirely inappropriate" for the Cayuga and Oneida Nations to pursue their pending land into trust applications in light of that decision; and
- WHEREAS,** contrary to the Senator's assertions, the Supreme Court, in the *City of Sherrill* case, expressly endorsed the land into trust application process as one "proper avenue" for creating and securing an Oneida homeland; and
- WHEREAS,** the Senator's rationale for opposing the Cayuga and Oneida Nations' land claims, if accepted, would undermine federal Indian policy and imperil the ability of all Indian nations to use the land into trust process to secure homelands for their people; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon its members to contact Senator Schumer to express their disagreement with his stated position regarding the land into trust process; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon Senator Schumer to rethink his position on the land into trust process in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's expressed endorsement of the process in the *City of Sherrill* case and urges him to support the Cayuga and Oneida land into trust applications.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Verona, NY, on Thursday, June 8, 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"