



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2007: 046

SUPPORT FOR HAUDENOSAUNEE (IROQUOIS) NATIONS AFFECTED BY THE NEW YORK STATE BERGER COMMISSION REPORT ON HOSPITAL RESTRUCTURING

- 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,** USET has a long standing policy of supporting efforts to ensure quality and access to health care for American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN); and
- WHEREAS,** the New York State Legislature established the "Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century", hereinafter referred to as the Berger Commission, whose mandate was to examine the system of general hospitals and nursing homes in New York State and recommend changes to the system in light of factors such as capacity, economic impact of right-sizing, and amount of capital debt being carried by the hospital or nursing home, among other factors; and
- WHEREAS,** the Berger Commission submitted its final report on November 28, 2006 and pursuant to New York State enabling legislation, the recommendations contained in the report became law upon the failure of the New York State Legislature to reject them in their entirety by December 31, 2006; and
- WHEREAS,** the recommendations will result in the elimination of acute care and/or psychiatric services in facilities operated by TLC Health Network (TLC), which serve as the primary means of health care for members of the Seneca and Cayuga Nations residing on the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Territory (Cattaraugus), as well as the members of many other Indian Tribes who utilize TLC through its affiliation with the Seneca Nation Health Services; and
- WHEREAS,** the implementation of the recommendations will negatively impact the availability of health care professionals and first responders in the area, the ability to receive acute and/or psychiatric care, and will increase travel times to alternate facilities which could result in the escalation of a routine health problem into a potentially life threatening one; and
- WHEREAS,** the TLC had submitted a voluntary right-sizing plan which would have addressed the concerns of the Berger Commission, yet would have enabled TLC to continue to provide the necessary services for Haudenosaunee people and for Western New Yorkers in general; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors affirms its support of the Seneca and Cayuga Nations and their respective efforts to effect change in the implementation of the Berger Commission's report.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 15, 2007

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"