

**USET PRESIDENT BRIAN PATTERSON AND COMMISSIONER STEVE MILLER
RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT TO WORK COOPERATIVELY ON
FEDERAL TAX MATTERS AFFECTING INDIAN NATIONS**

Newly-elected Brian Patterson, President of the United South and Eastern Tribes (“USET”), an affiliation of twenty-four prominent Indian nations situated in the eastern and southern United States, met today with Steven T. Miller, Commissioner of the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities (“TEGE”) Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The TEGE Division includes the Indian Tribal Governments Office, which was established to address the Federal tax administration needs of all Federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments.

“Over the past several years, USET, under the leadership of my predecessor, Keller George, has developed an effective government-to-government relationship with the Internal Revenue Service,” said President Patterson. “I wanted to personally assure Commissioner Miller that USET is still committed to working cooperatively with the Service on tax matters and other issues of mutual interest and concern to the Federal Government and Indian Country.”

President Patterson noted that the Treasury Department increasingly is looking to Indian nations to help combat money laundering and other illicit activities. “We don’t want Indian casinos to be used by terrorists, drug traffickers and others who are threats to the security of Indian nations and the United States. A partnership with the Federal Government based on mutual respect and trust is the best defense to such threats and will also protect the integrity of Indian gaming,” according to President Patterson.

For his part, Commissioner Miller said he is quite pleased that President Patterson wishes to build upon the existing relationship between the Service and USET. “Keller George has laid a strong foundation for our relationship, and we are delighted that the baton has been passed to someone as committed and capable as President Patterson. Though the tax issues we sometimes confront are difficult and complex, we have found that by working cooperatively and showing respect for the sovereignty of Indian tribal governments, solutions can usually be found,” said Commissioner Miller.



Brian Patterson and Steven Miller renew their commitment to maintaining a government-to-government relationship. Behind them is a Guswhenta, a two-row wampum belt presented to the IRS by the Oneida Indian Nation of New York to memorialize this commitment.