



# USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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*Transmitted Electronically*

October 25, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF), we write to urge you to grant executive clemency to Leonard Peltier by commuting the remainder of his sentence. Mr. Peltier is now 77 years old and has been in prison for over 46 years. His conviction is now widely recognized as having been the result of constitutional violations and prosecutorial misconduct – the time is now to correct this injustice.

USET SPF is a non-profit, inter-tribal organization advocating on behalf of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico.<sup>1</sup> USET SPF is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and advancing the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of Tribal Nations and in assisting its membership in dealing effectively with public policy issues.

Mr. Peltier is now elderly and in failing health. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT, Senate Pro Tempore) wrote to you recently urging an expeditious commutation of Mr. Peltier's sentence, saying "*I have long believed that pardons and commutations are vital tools to offer clemency and relief, particularly when our criminal justice system has been contorted to propagate injustices.*" (February 4, 2022).

On July 9, 2021, James Reynolds, the United States Attorney whose office handled the prosecution and appeal of Leonard Peltier's case, wrote to you in support of clemency. Critically, Mr. Reynolds noted the prosecution and continued incarceration of Mr. Peltier was and is unjust, and admitted they were unable to prove that Mr. Peltier personally committed any offense on the Pine Ridge Reservation that day. Former U.S.

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<sup>1</sup> USET SPF member Tribal Nations include: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (TX), Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians (ME), Catawba Indian Nation (SC), Cayuga Nation (NY), Chickahominy Indian Tribe (VA), Chickahominy Indian Tribe–Eastern Division (VA), Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana (LA), Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana (LA), Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (NC), Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (ME), Jena Band of Choctaw Indians (LA), Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe (CT), Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (MA), Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (FL), Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MS), Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut (CT), Monacan Indian Nation (VA), Nansemond Indian Nation (VA), Narragansett Indian Tribe (RI), Oneida Indian Nation (NY), Pamunkey Indian Tribe (VA), Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township (ME), Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point (ME), Penobscot Indian Nation (ME), Poarch Band of Creek Indians (AL), Rappahannock Tribe (VA), Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (NY), Seminole Tribe of Florida (FL), Seneca Nation of Indians (NY), Shinnecock Indian Nation (NY), Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana (LA), Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe (VA) and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (MA).

*Because there is strength in Unity*

Attorney Reynolds also finally recognized the FBI's role in the creation of the dangerous conditions present on Pine Ridge in the early 1970s and their impact on Mr. Peltier's prosecution and appeal.

USET SPF joins with national and international human rights organizations and dignitaries from around the world in calling for clemency for Leonard Peltier. Again, the time is now. You have the opportunity to correct an injustice before it is too late – we urge you to grant executive clemency to Leonard Peltier. Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Francis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Francis  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. A. Carroll', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kitcki A. Carroll  
Executive Director