



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2010:027

CALLING UPON THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TO REVERSE ITS APPROVAL OF THE CAPE WIND PROJECT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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,** invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of Indian Tribes, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the Secretary of the Interior recently approved the Cape Wind Project, which would allow for the construction of 130 wind turbines, each reaching a height of 440 feet above the surface of the water, along with related equipment and cabling in Nantucket Sound - an area of extraordinary spiritual, cultural and historic sensitivity to several Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the major historic preservation entities, including the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer, and the historic preservation officials of the Mashpee Wampanoag and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) expressed opposition and even alarm at the harm that this proposed project would do to ceremonial activities as well as sites of extraordinary spiritual and cultural value; and
- WHEREAS,** Indian Country supports the development of renewable energy, but such development should not come at the expense of Native historic and cultural places and over the objections of Tribal and cultural leaders; and
- WHEREAS,** the Federal government has a decision-making role in a number of development proposals across the United States that would harm areas of sacred importance to American Indian/Alaska Natives such as the San Francisco Peaks, where the Federal government approved the use of treated wastewater to make snow at a ski resort, and Mt. Taylor in New Mexico, where uranium mining companies have submitted applications to open mining operations; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Department of Interior to reverse its decision with regard to the Cape Wind Project before any sites are damaged and to explain in detail its rationale for rejecting Tribal concerns, especially in the context of similar development proposals across the United States, as well as rejecting Tribal proposals to locate the project on alternative off-shore sites that would not interfere with or harm Tribal spiritual interests; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors shall advocate for the protection of the sacred sites impacted by the Cape Wind Project.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Mobile, AL, on Thursday, June 17, 2010.



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



Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"