

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. ~~93-14~~LA

DEMAND THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO AFFORD EQUAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO THE MICCOSUKEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF FLORIDA IN THE MEDIATED EVERGLADES SETTLEMENT

- WHEREAS**, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-one (21) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS**, the actions taken by the USET, Inc. 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**, the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, State of Florida, South Florida Water Management District, and the Sugar Industry have been conducting secret negotiations in an attempt to avoid responsibility for paying to clean up their water pollution; and
- WHEREAS**, the Miccosukee Tribe has a 75,000 acre Federal Indian Reservation, 189,000 acres in a perpetual lease from the State of Florida, and reside in 333.3 acres in the northern boundary of Everglades National Park, thus having Tribal lands in excess of 265,000 acres in the heart of the Everglades and are the only group which lives in the Everglades; and
- WHEREAS**, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (Miccosukee Tribe) has been consistently excluded from the negotiations since July 13, 1993 when the Tribe pointed out serious defects in the "Statement of Principles" and subsequent drafts of the "Mediated Everglades Settlement"; and
- WHEREAS**, the deliberate exclusion of the Miccosukee Tribe from the negotiations violates a special Department of the Interior Agreement with the Miccosukee Tribe, which promises "Complete Consultation by the Department with the Tribe on Everglades Issues"; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed Settlement caps agricultural contributions of money and land without addressing funding for the final plan; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed Settlement delays enforcement of existing water quality standards until 2006; and
- WHEREAS**, the proposed Settlement is technology based rather than water quality based, thus exempting the Sugar Industry from meeting State Water Quality Standards if certain physical/technological steps are taken; and

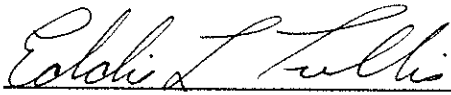
WHEREAS, the proposed Settlement does not address water pollution from the western basin which enters the Everglades through the Miccosukee Federal Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Settlement gives a higher priority to Everglades National Park than to Miccosukee Tribal lands by allowing polluted agricultural discharges to be biologically filtered on Miccosukee Tribal lands.

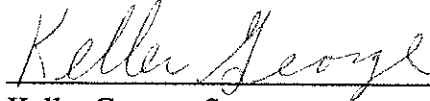
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors demands the Secretary of the Interior to enforce his trust responsibilities to the Miccosukee Tribe by providing environmental protection to Miccosukee Tribal lands equal to that provided to Everglades National Park.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Annual Board meeting at which a quorum was present in Lafayette, LA on December 8, 1993.



Eddie L. Tullis, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Keller George, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.