

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. ~~93~~-15LA

RESTATING POSITION ON LUMBEE RECOGNITION

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, legislation, H.R. 334, which would extend federal recognition to the "Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw Indians of North Carolina," is now pending in the Congress, and

WHEREAS, a non-legislative mechanism for federal recognition of Indian groups, as recommended by the American Indian Policy Review Commission and implemented by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, presently exists, and

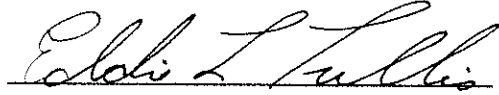
WHEREAS, an Interior Solicitor's opinion has been issued that states that the Lumbee Tribe does not have access to this non-legislative recognition mechanism because of the wording contained in the June 7, 1956, Lumbee Act, prohibiting the group from receiving "any services performed by the United States for Indians because of their status as Indians," and

WHEREAS, it is preferable that federal recognition of groups be accomplished through an objective process based on the weight of evidence, and not upon the current opinion of the Congress; but it is unfair to any group seeking federal recognition to be excluded from such an objective process for any reason,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of directors of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., does hereby reject the concept of legislative recognition of Indian groups and does hereby endorse legislative efforts, including the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 334 offered by Congressman Thomas of Wyoming in the House of Representatives October 28, 1993, to amend the 1956 Lumbee Act to cure the Interior Solicitor's interpretation of Lumbee participation in the Federal Acknowledgment Process and to provide for such participation, on an equal basis with other petitioning groups.

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.