



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.
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UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 96:44

THE MICCOSUKEE RIGHTS AMENDMENT

- WHEREAS**, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) 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 is comprised of delegates from the member Tribe's leadership; and
- WHEREAS**, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (Miccosukee Tribe) has their traditional homelands in the Everglades region of Florida; and
- WHEREAS**, the traditional homelands of the Miccosukee Tribe include those lands situated within Everglades National Park and adjacent to Big Cypress National Preserve, which Park/Preserve are both administered by the National Park Service; and
- WHEREAS**, the USET Board of Directors, in USET Resolution No. 11/94-18FL supported the Miccosukee Tribe in their quest to remove themselves from the subjugation of Everglades National Park (Park) and the National Park Service (Park Service); and
- WHEREAS**, Congress, through the enactment of the Everglades National Park Enabling Act of 1934, recognized, preserved and guaranteed the rights of the Miccosukee Tribe to live within the boundaries of the Park; and
- WHEREAS**, the Miccosukee Tribe is under a Special Use Permit, issued in 1973 by the Secretary of Interior, which Permit is being used by the Park Service to limit and infringe upon the Miccosukee Tribe's rights to the use and occupancy of its Tamiami Trail Reservation which is located within the boundaries of Park; and
- WHEREAS**, this Permit places the Miccosukee Tribe in the untenable position of being forced to ask permission from the Park Service to exercise its tribal sovereignty rights when it comes to construction and other normal functions exercised routinely by Tribes throughout the Nation; and
- WHEREAS**, the Park Service has consistently shown its refusal to act on the Miccosukee Tribe's requests in a timely manner, has disregarded its legal duties, and has abandoned its Trust responsibility to the Miccosukee Tribe; and

"Because there is strength in Unity"

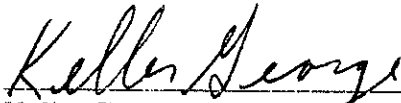
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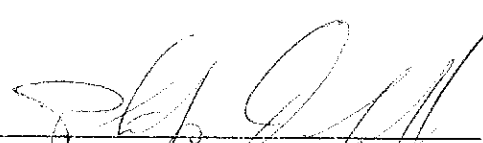
WHEREAS, the Miccosukee Tribe has initiated legislation in the Congress of the United States of America entitled, "the Miccosukee Rights Amendment," which would clarify the 1934 Everglades National Park Enabling Act in which Congress recognized the rights of the Miccosukee to live in the Park, would remove the Tribe from the subjugation, auspices and patronage of Everglades National Park and the National Park Service, and allow the Tribe to exercise fully its tribal sovereignty on its lands.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors does hereby support the Miccosukee Rights Amendment, as it is currently written, and urges the Congress of the United States of America to re-affirm its recognition of the Miccosukee Tribe's rights to continue to live within the boundaries of the Park, and to pass such legislation so that the Miccosukee Tribe and their traditional homeland will be removed from the subjugation, auspices and patronage of the Park and the Park Service, thereby protecting the tribal sovereignty of the Miccosukee Tribe.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board of Directors meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Bangor, ME, on Friday, June 21, 1996.


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


Philip Tarbell, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.