



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

Resolution No. USET 96:45

EVERGLADES LAWSUIT

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 USET Board of Directors, in USET Resolution No. 11/94-18FL supported the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida (Miccosukee Tribe) in their lawsuit against the Department of Interior (DOI), demanded DOI to recognize the Miccosukee Tribe's sovereign rights and concerns for their homelands, and settle the lawsuit; and

WHEREAS, the Miccosukee Tribe has their traditional homeland in the Everglades; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades Agricultural Area is located north of tribal lands, which include, the Miccosukee Alligator Alley Federal Indian Reservation, the Miccosukee Tribe's State Leased Lands and the Tamiami Trail Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the water discharges from the Everglades Agricultural Area flow from north to south, through tribal lands, and subsequently into Everglades National Park; and

WHEREAS, the DOI, in its rush to provide clean water to Everglades National Park entered into an agreement with sugar cane growers called the "Flo-Sun Agreement," which Agreement allows the sugar cane growers to pollute the Everglades until the year 2006; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida passed the Everglades Forever Act which also gives the sugar cane growers the right to pollute without meeting State water quality standards until the year 2006; and

WHEREAS, said pollution will enter onto Miccosukee Tribal Lands thereby causing significant degradation and destruction of said lands; and

"Because there is strength in Unity"

(USET 96:45)

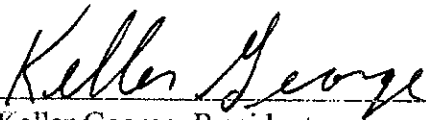
WHEREAS, the Miccosukee Tribe's Everglades lands are being destroyed because the DOI and the State of Florida have given a higher priority to Everglades National Park than to Miccosukee Tribal lands by allowing polluted agricultural discharges to be absorbed and biologically filtered on Miccosukee Tribal lands in order to ensure that Everglades National Park gets clean water.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors does hereby support the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida in their efforts to enforce the 1991 Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree entered in the Federal Everglades lawsuit, and further requests and demands that the State of Florida fulfill its legal obligations, and that the federal government exercise its Trust responsibility to the Miccosukee Tribe through recognition of the Miccosukee Tribe's sovereign rights and concerns for their traditional homeland by enforcing compliance with the terms of the 1991 Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree and ensuring that Miccosukee Tribal lands are afforded environmental protection equal to that provided to Everglades National Park.

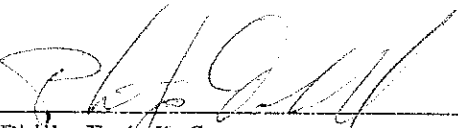
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors does hereby support the Miccosukee Tribe in their efforts to litigate the Everglades lawsuit against the government parties if the terms of the 1991 Settlement and Consent Decree are not enforced, so that they can ensure that the pollution of their Tribal Everglades lands is stopped, once and for all.

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.