



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.


Resolution No. USET 97:34

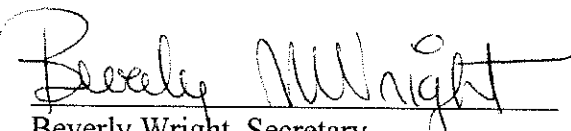
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE REPATRIATION PRACTICES

- WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal 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 tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the Smithsonian Institution is subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), its rules and regulations; and
- WHEREAS,** the Smithsonian Institution goes beyond the provisions of the law, which applies only to federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the Smithsonian Institution is repatriating burial goods, items of cultural patrimony, sacred objects, and ancestral remains to non-federally recognized groups and organization, newly formed or otherwise, so called state Tribes, and others; and
- WHEREAS,** all other Federal agencies, museums and institutions which receive federal funds are prohibited by the NAGPRA statute from any such act or practices; and
- WHEREAS,** the Smithsonian is creating a serious and devastating effect on the historic legal concept of Indian tribes and causing irreparable cultural harm; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** the USET Board of Directors urges the U.S. Congress, through its proper committees, to take action rectifying this unacceptable policy and bring the Smithsonian fully into compliance with NAGPRA and assess penalties for non-compliance.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Washington Impact Week meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Washington, DC on Wednesday, February 5, 1997.


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


Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”