



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

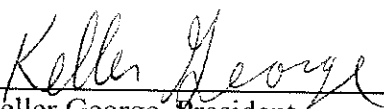
USET Resolution No. 2001:05

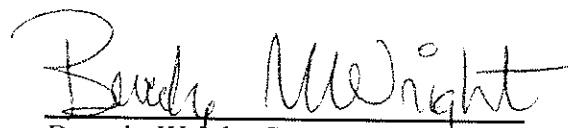
CALLING UPON THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO PROTECT INDIAN CULTURAL SITES AND MATERIAL CULTURE REMAINS

- WHEREAS**, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-four (24) 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 comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS**, the state of Florida is an part of the ancestral lands of the Maskókî peoples, whose descendants are member Tribes of USET; and
- WHEREAS**, there has been revealed in Alachua County, Florida an extraordinary cache of at least 87 dugout canoes, ranging in age from 5,000 years to approximately 500 years, in an area known to its Indian inhabitants as *Pithlachocco*, the "home of the long boats;" and
- WHEREAS**, this cache constitutes the oldest and largest collection of such Indian artifacts ever found in the United States, confirming the duration and intensity of Indian peoples' equity in this land; and
- WHEREAS**, the destruction of at least five of these priceless historical and cultural treasures has occurred; and
- WHEREAS**, the State of Florida has failed to protect the material culture heritage of Florida Indian citizens, through the inadequate standards employed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in permitting the commercial process of "deadhead logging"; and
- WHEREAS**, the State Historic Preservation Officer has failed to provide adequate educational resources and technical support for other Florida State agencies; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors call upon the State of Florida to reevaluate its relationship with the First Peoples of Florida; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors call upon the State of Florida to consult with the Federally recognized Tribes on a regular basis; be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors call upon the State of Florida to use every means at its disposal to educate the agencies and citizens of the state of Florida concerning need to preserve the cultural heritage of the Indian Tribes whose ancestral lands are the state of Florida.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Verona, NY on Thursday, November 2, 2000.


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


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

"Because there is strength in Unity"