



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

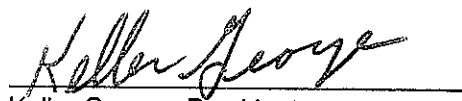
Resolution No. USET 2003:018

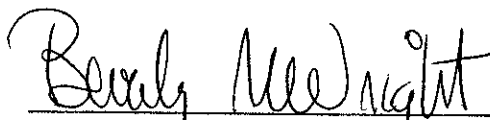
EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS LAND EXCHANGE

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of 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 current schools of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) are overcrowded and dilapidated; and
- WHEREAS,** the EBCI undertook a search initiative to identify suitable tracts of land for the purpose of constructing a unified central tribal schools complex; and
- WHEREAS,** the search initiative identified a parcel of land known as the Ravensford tract, a historic property, within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP); and
- WHEREAS,** EBCI entered into a General Agreement (GA-GRSM-01-FY00) with the National Park Service (NPS) in 2000, to explore the feasibility of exchanging lands for the Ravensford tract; and
- WHEREAS,** the EBCI proposes to purchase and exchange a tract of greater value, contiguous to the Blue Ridge Parkway's Water Rock Knob overlook, known as "Yellow Face"; and
- WHEREAS,** the Yellow Face tract currently is threatened by private development which will subject the Blue Ridge Parkway watershed to degradation and endanger rare floral and faunal species; and
- WHEREAS,** the EBCI is willing to assume environmental and cultural stewardship of the Ravensford tract; and
- WHEREAS,** the exchange will afford protection for a historic property, and benefit the EBCI's educational programs and cultural preservation through construction of the school complex; and
- WHEREAS,** US Congressman Charles Taylor (NC 11th District) has introduced H.R. 5468 to expedite this exchange of lands; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports the exchange of lands between the EBCI and the NPS and urges passage of H.R. 5468.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Board Meeting and EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Uncasville, CT, Thursday, October 31, 2002.


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


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

"Because there is strength in Unity"