



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:082

TRUST RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMAC INDIANS

- 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 Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians (Band) is a sovereign Indian Nation, federally recognized under the 1991 Aroostook Band of Micmac Settlement Act (ABMSA); and
- WHEREAS,** under the ABMSA, the Band retains its inherent tribal sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) agree that under the ABMSA the Band retains its inherent tribal sovereignty; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Maine asserts that the Band does not retain its inherent tribal sovereignty and is fully subject to state civil and criminal law; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Maine has refused to negotiate in good faith with the Band over issues relating to the Band's jurisdiction and plans for economic development; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Maine has threatened to send armed state police to the Band's land to arrest Band members for engaging in activities that the State asserts are in violation of its laws; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the United States, in furtherance of its trust responsibility, to intervene and take other actions in the dispute with the State of Maine on behalf of the Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians. Such actions should include, but not be limited to, intervening on behalf of the Band in any litigation over issues relating to the Band's sovereign rights; negotiating with the State of Maine regarding the scope of the Band's jurisdiction; and, taking any other appropriate measures to ensure that conflict with Maine State Police Officers is avoided.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Choctaw, MS, Thursday, June 5, 2003.

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”