



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:083

RECOGNITION OF TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE 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 and the U.S. Department of the Interior 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 laws; 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 State of Maine to acknowledge the Band's inherent tribal sovereignty; to immediately withdraw its threat to send State Police to the Band's land; and to work with the Band on a government-to-government basis to address issues of jurisdiction and economic development.

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”