



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.


USET Resolution No. 2007:016

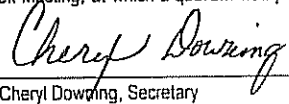
SUPPORT OF ALABAMA-COUSHATTA GAMING EFFORT
IN TEXAS LEGISLATURE

- 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 Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas (the "Tribe") is a Federally-recognized Indian Tribe and a member of USET; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribe opened a small gaming operation on its reservation in November of 2001, and the gaming operation's legality was challenged by the State of Texas (the "State") in Federal court; and
- WHEREAS, the Federal court ruled that the Tribe was not under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), and further held that, as a result of language inserted into its Federal restoration legislation, the Tribe was instead under applicable State gaming law; and
- WHEREAS, due to the Federal court's decision, the Tribe's gaming operation was closed in 2002; and
- WHEREAS, the court's decision states that of the three Federally-recognized Tribes in Texas, two Tribes, including the Tribe, are not under IGRA and therefore prevented from gaming, while one Tribe is under IGRA and is permitted to game, and this illogical and unfair situation continues to the present; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribe is committed to supporting the passage of State legislation that will establish gaming only at Texas' three Federally-recognized Indian reservations, which the Tribe believes will restore fairness to the Indian gaming situation in Texas; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribe has worked with both House and Senate leaders to bring about success during the 2007 Texas legislative session, which began on January 9, 2007 and will last 140 days, ending on May 28, 2007; and
- WHEREAS, the Tribe believes that proposed Texas gaming legislation should be seen primarily as addressing an Indian issue, with the need to restore fairness between the State's Tribes, and the recognition of Federal Indian gaming policies embodied within IGRA; and
- WHEREAS, USET support will be a valuable tool and resource during the upcoming legislative battle, and the Tribe respectfully requests that USET affirmatively support the Tribe in its efforts to obtain the right to conduct gaming, and more specifically, that USET affirmatively support legislation before the Texas legislature that will allow the Tribe to conduct gaming on its reservation; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the Tribe in its efforts to obtain the right to conduct gaming, and calls upon the Texas legislature, in recognition of the need to restore fairness between the State's Indian Tribes, and in further recognition of the Federal Indian gaming policies embodied within IGRA, as soon as practicable and during the current Texas legislative session, to enact legislation that will allow the Tribe to conduct gaming on its reservation.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 15, 2007.


Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"