



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2007-033


CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE, ILLINOIS

- 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,** Presidential Executive Order 13007 regarding sacred sites recognizes American Indian Sacred Cultural Sites and the need to protect and preserve Indian religious practices; and
- WHEREAS,** Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Illinois, an American Indian sacred site, is recognized as having outstanding universal value to humanity by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through its designation as a World Heritage Site; and
- WHEREAS,** Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, an American Indian Sacred Site, has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** USET attests that any alteration to a sacred site, which includes those lands forming a buffer around the site, desecrates the sanctity of the sacred site and is a violation of our religious and cultural beliefs which are reinforced through the American Indian Religious Freedom Act; and
- WHEREAS,** USET attests further that the adulteration of the intrinsic and aesthetic quality which embodies a sacred site impacts the spiritual integrity of the site and is also a violation of our religious and cultural beliefs; and
- WHEREAS,** USET recognizes the ancient site now referred to as Cahokia Mounds is SACRED as it embodies not only the remains of ancient ancestors, but the sacredness of all that existed in our past as well as all that it embodies for future generations; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors recognizes any encroachment endangers Cahokia Mounds as a sacred site, a World Heritage Site, and a National Historic Landmark, and further impacts the natural environment of culturally significant indigenous plants and animals; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors objects and condemns any action, project, or alteration that adversely affects Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Illinois, including its surrounding area, and which therefore violates and desecrates the sanctity of our traditional religious and cultural beliefs.

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"