



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2007:036

REQUEST TO NOT ADOPT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION
HUMAN REMAINS POLICY DRAFT IN ITS CURRENT FORM

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** 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 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has closed the opportunity to solicit comment and consultation on the completion of their Draft Policy Statement on the Treatment of Human Remains, Burial Sites and Funerary Objects (Policy Statement); and
- WHEREAS,** the ACHP has declared that it has completed its duties to consult for the "Final Draft" of their Policy Statement and is preparing to present this final draft for approval and adoption by the ACHP at the end of February 2007; and
- WHEREAS,** in USET Resolution No. 2005:007, the USET Board of Directors established a task force to consult with the ACHP Archaeology Task Force; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Culture and Heritage Committee recognizes and appreciates the work and efforts invested into the draft thus far, and continues to consider the current draft as a solid foundation on which to continue building; however, the USET Culture and Heritage Committee has not been effectively consulted with regarding the "Final Draft" of the Policy Statement; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Culture and Heritage Committee has discussed this issue extensively, and have brought forward their ongoing concerns specifically with regard to the consultation process, the lack of reasonable opportunity to consult, the content of the document, the lack of sensitivity to the necessary time required to fully consider the impacts of such an important issue, the lack of USET member Tribes' input, the long term implications, and their decision not to incorporate a separate section relating to Tribes and Tribal Nations; acknowledging and respecting Indian Tribes and our government-to-government relationship with the Federal Government as Sovereign Nations; therefore be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors does not support the adoption of the ACHP Draft "Policy Statement Regarding the Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains and Funerary Objects" in its current form, until more opportunity for "meaningful consultation" with the USET member Tribes has occurred; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests that a regional consultation meeting be scheduled in conjunction with the next USET meeting in June, 2007, to commence meaningful government-to-government consultation with the USET member Tribes as intended with USET Resolution No. 2005:007 "Creation of USET Task Force To Consult With The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Archaeology Task Force".

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"