



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2007:001

CONGRESSIONAL SETTLEMENT OF ALABAMA-COUSHATTA LAND CLAIM

- 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 (Tribe) is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe whose aboriginal lands in East Texas were taken illegally without Congressional consent as required by federal law; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1983, by Congressional Reference No. 3-83, Congress authorized the Tribe to pursue its breach-of-trust damages claims against the United States (U.S.) in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims (Court); and
- WHEREAS,** on June 19, 2000, the Court ruled that the U.S. knowingly and completely failed in its duty to protect the Tribe in possession of its land and thus violated the duty of fair and honorable dealing under the Indian Claims Commission Act, and "*Accordingly, [recommended] . . . that the United States Government pay full monetary compensation to the Tribe for 2,850,028 acres of the Tribe's aboriginal lands illegally occupied by non-Indian settlers after 1845. Damages accrued until 1954, when Congress [terminated the Tribe].*"
- WHEREAS,** on October 10, 2002, following nearly 20 years of hard-fought litigation and negotiation, the Court recommended to Congress that the U.S. pay the Tribe \$270.6 million in damages; and
- WHEREAS,** four years later, Congress still has taken no action, and no legislation has been introduced, to implement the Court's recommendation and settle the Tribe's land claim; and
- WHEREAS,** this four-year delay has been unjust to the Tribe, any further Congressional delay would be unconscionable, and it is therefore now imperative that Congress act expeditiously to honor its own rules and legal processes and enact a fair and just settlement act; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors calls upon the U. S. Congress, in furtherance of its trust responsibility to the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas and consistent with its duties under federal statutory law and policy, to as soon as practicable enact legislation implementing the recommendation of the United States Court of Federal Claims in Congressional Reference No. 3-83.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Choctaw, MS, on Thursday, October 12, 2006.

Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"