



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2008:002

FEE-TO-TRUST APPLICATION OF THE AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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 Micmacs are a sovereign Indian Tribe, occupying and governing lands in Northern Maine since before the creation of the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1992, the former Loring Air Force Base (LAFB) located in Limestone, Maine, closed under the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC); and
- WHEREAS,** in 1993, the State of Maine established the Loring Development Authority of Maine (LDA) as an independent state authority charged with redeveloping the former LAFB; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1993, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs asked the Department of Interior/Bureau of Indian Affairs (DOI/BIA) for assistance in obtaining a parcel of land located at the former LAFB to create desperately needed economic development for the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** the Aroostook Band of Micmacs has always viewed this parcel of land at LAFB as an essential element to a systematic approach of meeting the Tribe's objective of economic development to realize the goal of self-sufficiency; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1994, the DOI/BIA negotiated with the LDA and the United States Air Force, on behalf of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, to obtain a parcel of land at LAFB that could be transferred to the DOI/BIA for the benefit of Micmac Tribal members. The parties reached an agreement on an approximately 676 acre parcel of land, and
- WHEREAS,** on June 7, 1996, Assistant Secretary George T. Frampton of DOI, on behalf of BIA Secretary Ada Deer, submitted a request to the United States Air Force to transfer approximately 676 acres at the former LAFB to the DOI/BIA for the benefit of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** a Record of Decision that transferred approximately 676 acres to the DOI/BIA "on behalf of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs" was issued by the United States Air Force in 1996; and
- WHEREAS,** the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the United States Air Force, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Micmac Environmental Department, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency have all determined through on-site tests and analysis that the Tribe's use of the LAFB parcel poses no threat to human health or the environment; and
- WHEREAS,** the BIA Eastern Region Office has completed the fee-to-trust Section 151 process and has recommended that the parcel be accepted in trust, there are no outstanding legal, political or policy issues that remain; and
- WHEREAS,** the Governor of the State of Maine, the entire Maine Congressional Delegation, and the United States Air Force are all favorable to this fee-to-trust transfer; and

"Because there is strength in Unity"

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WHEREAS, there is not a reasonable basis to deny, or further delay the transfer into trust of the Tribe's LAFB parcel, therefore, be it

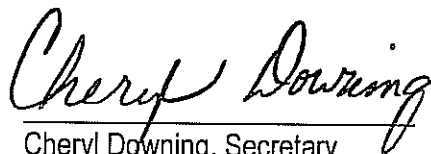
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors urges the United States Department of Interior to expeditiously approve the Aroostook Band of Micmacs fee-to-trust application for the Micmac Loring Air Force parcel in its entirety.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Marksville, LA, on Thursday, October 18, 2007.



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



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