



## UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

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USET Resolution No. 2008:010

### **NARRAGANSETT INDIAN SALT POND VILLAGE & BURYING GROUND**

- 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,** since 1986, when the Narragansett Indian Tribe was first made aware of plans to develop a tract of houses in the (non-Indian) Town of Narragansett in the State of Rhode Island, the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NITHPO) has raised concerns locally and at the federal level regarding tribal cultural resources that this project would impact and destroy; and
- WHEREAS,** on July 11, 2007, the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission (Commission) proclaimed by its Board's resolution that, "The diversity and complexity of the site is unmatched—no other New England site has the information potential of RI 110 [Rhode Island Archaeological Site 110]; and
- WHEREAS,** Narragansett ancestral remains were archaeologically confirmed in 1993 and an extensive area of top soil was machine stripped revealing the tops of an extensive number of additional burial pits; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2007, after nearly a year of invasive archaeology into an intact village landscape of over 20 dwelling places where ancient ceremonial areas of the Turtle Clan were impacted by archaeology, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office emphatically objected to the archeological investigation and the proposed housing development as "sacrilege against an ancient and important place of Narragansett history, tradition and spiritual practice; and
- WHEREAS,** the outlines of at least 22 structures have been found, revealed by their post holes. There were longhouse, oval and circular buildings. More than 2,000 features and thousands of artifacts have been identified. The great number and variety of the features are a tangible archive for understanding the everyday village life of the Narragansett people in the centuries before European contact; and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission has now halted all archaeological measures, stating that: "The Commission has ... determined that the Salt Pond Residences development project will have adverse impacts on Rhode Island Archaeological Site 110 because the development construction will damage or destroy large numbers of features and artifacts within the site and will diminish or destroy the qualities of the property which make it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register"; and
- WHEREAS,** the Commission finds that Rhode Island Archaeological Site 110 is part of the cultural heritage of the State of Rhode Island and should be preserved as a part of our life to enrich the experience of present and future generations; and

*"Because there is strength in Unity"*

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**WHEREAS,** the Commission further finds that the public has an interest in the identification, interpretation, preservation, and protection of the State's archaeological resources. The Commission also finds that preservation of Rhode Island Archaeological Site 110 is important to the cultural values of the Narragansett Indian Tribe; therefore, be it

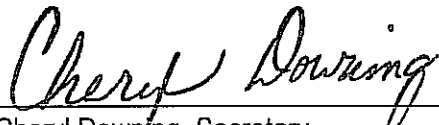
**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the July 11, 2007 action taken by the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission to protect this ancient Narragansett Tribal Village and burial complex from further impacts and to accord this site the historic status that is its due; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports this village and burial complex, known as Rhode Island Archaeological Site 110, for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

**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.

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

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