



USET Resolution No. 2008:030

**OPPOSITION TO THE CAPE WINDS WIND FARM PROPOSAL
HORSESHOE SHOAL, NANTUCKET SOUND MASSACHUSETTS**

- 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 Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) is a member Tribe of the Great Nation of Wampanoag People. They are known as "*The People of The First Light*". Their name defines who they are and differentiates them from all other Tribal Nations. Their name and it's definition are their Cultural and Spiritual identity, and the essence of who they are. Since time immemorial, the Wampanoag People have inhabited the area of the eastern most lands and waters, and have maintained their Traditional, Spiritual and Cultural connection to them; and
- WHEREAS,** as the People of the First Light; one of the most important aspects and fundamental components of their religious and cultural beliefs and practice is their ability to experience, embrace and give ceremony and prayers of thanksgiving to the first light. These ceremonies, spiritual and religious practices are dependant upon maintaining the ability to view the first light; the eastern horizon vista and view-shed without obstructions. Additionally, there are other impacts such as the celestial and solstice ceremonies, which will also be adversely impacted; and
- WHEREAS,** the right to practice their religious ceremony in the traditional manner will be forever denied by a proposed experimental wind farm consisting of 130+/- windmill turbines, with propeller blades reaching approximately 440' above the surface of the water, on about 22 acres of area (about the size of Manhattan); slated to be located in the shallow waters of Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound, in the middle of the shores of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, MA; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), a Federally Recognized Tribal Nation and a USET member Tribe, most strenuously objects to this proposal and opposes the placement of this wind farm in their Traditional Wampanoag Waters of their Religious and Ceremonial Sanctuary; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors supports the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and their position; to oppose the Cape Winds wind farm to be located in Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound, due to its devastating and destructive impact to the Traditional Spiritual, Religious and Cultural practices and freedoms of all Wampanoag People as well as the adverse effects this experimental project will have on the surrounding environment in its entirety and totality; and, be it further

"Because there is strength in Unity"

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RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Department of the Interior/ Minerals Management Service to respect the Traditional, Cultural, Spiritual and Religious beliefs of the Wampanoag People and preserve the spiritual integrity and sanctity of the Eastern Horizon, Vista and Horizon View-Shed; and to deny the permitting of such a devastatingly and destructive experiment which will adversely effect and destroy the essence of the tranquility, sanctity and spirituality of this Sacred Place for all time; and, be it further

RESOLVED that in order for other Tribes, and other Federal, State and Local Agencies as well as the General Public to fully evaluate and comment on the 2000 page Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the USET Board of Directors is also calling upon the Department of the Interior and the Minerals Management Service to extend the comment period an additional ninety (90) days in order to provide a more adequate and reasonable timeframe in which the Draft Environmental Impact Statement can be read, researched and knowledgeable commented upon.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 14, 2008.



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



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