



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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USET Resolution No. 2013:007

OPPOSING DEMOLITION OF CARLISLE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FACILITIES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 Carlisle Indian Industrial School (CIIS) was the first off-reservation Indian boarding school, established in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1879 by the United States (U.S.) as part of its then-official governmental policy of Indian assimilation; and
- WHEREAS,** during its years of operation between 1879 and 1918, thousands of Indian children from more than three dozen Indian Tribes were placed at CIIS, far away from their homes, people and culture, as a means of "civilizing the Indian" through assimilation and acculturation into mainstream society; and
- WHEREAS,** hundreds of Indian children who attended CIIS died at the institution, and those who survived endured varying levels of abuse and mistreatment, which are all a part of the School's history; and
- WHEREAS,** the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples takes a position that the U.S. should provide redress for the effects of violating the rights of indigenous people and subjecting them to forced assimilation; and
- WHEREAS,** the CIIS facilities include a property known as the Farmhouse which is an historically important structure symbolic of all federal Indian boarding schools and their adverse impacts on Indian peoples and, thus, serves as an important reminder of the destructive policies of the past; and
- WHEREAS,** the impacts of the CIIS are broad and far reaching, across familial and Tribal lines; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Army states that the Farmhouse was neither historic nor significant enough to be placed with other CIIS buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and has taken steps towards demolishing the Farmhouse to make way for new military housing; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Army has determined for the time being to suspend plans to demolish the Farmhouse, but has not committed to permanently abandoning those plans and preserving the Farmhouse; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors opposes the demolition of the historic Carlisle Indian Industrial School Farmhouse and requests that the building be preserved unless supported by Indian Country as an important reminder of a despicable period of United States history and of the Indian Tribes whose children were sent to this institution during these operative years; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests that the United States Department of Defense engage in Tribal consultation prior to making any further decisions that may impact the Carlisle Indian Industrial School.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Uncasville, CT, on Friday, October 12, 2012.



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



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”