WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes is an Inter-Tribal Council which represents the governments of twelve federally recognized Tribes in the states of Maine, Mississippi, Louisiana, North Carolina, New York, and Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is a member of the USET Inter-Tribal Council, and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 1981, an Acting Associate Solicitor, Division of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior made an opinion that 25 U.S.C. 297 legally excluded any enrolled member of the Eastern Band with less than 1/2 blood quantum from receiving education services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs School on the reservation, and

WHEREAS, prior to this time, including the time when 25 U.S.C. 297 was enacted, education has been provided to any and all enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokees, and

WHEREAS, without this source, an entire segment of the Cherokee Tribe will mature, without education opportunity, which violates the constitutional rights of these Tribal members; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United South and Eastern Tribes fully endorses the request of the Cherokee Tribe to repeal this restrictive law and pass legislation that respects the Cherokee Tribes right to determine membership and qualify who receives service guaranteed to them as a sovereign nation.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the semi-annual Board of Directors meeting held at the Seneca Nation of Indians, Salamanca, New York, May 12-14, 1981, at which a quorum was present.

Michael D. Tiger
President
United South & Eastern Tribes

Curtis Osceola
Secretary
United South & Eastern Tribes