

UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

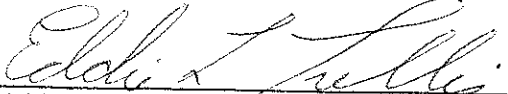
Resolution No. 92-12

RECOGNITION BY U.S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY THE RIGHT OF INDIAN TRIBES TO FULL AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING REIMBURSEMENT FOR OVERSIGHT COSTS FOR RESPECTIVE PARTIES


- WHEREAS, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal organization comprised of twenty (20) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET, Inc. Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS, the United States Government has recognized the nation-to-nation relationship with the Native American and American Indian Tribes; and
- WHEREAS, the United States Congress specifically has recognized in the federal Superfund law, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 9626, that Indian Tribes are entitled to participate in federal proceedings concerning remediation of hazardous substances released on Indian lands on a government-to-government basis with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and
- WHEREAS, hazardous substances present a serious threat to the public health and environment of Native American lands of USET members; and;
- WHEREAS, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, a USET member, has not been granted full and meaningful participation in the U.S. EPA proceeding concerning the General Motors Corporation (GMC) Superfund site near Massena, New York, has had difficulty recovering its Superfund remediation oversight costs from the responsible parties, and EPA has not been willing to compel GMC to carry out a permanent remedy of hazardous substances released on Mohawk lands;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors does hereby call on the U.S. EPA to recognize the right of Indian Tribes full and meaningful participation in federal environmental proceedings including the right to reimbursement for oversight costs from responsible parties as intended by the U.S. Congress; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USET Board of Directors does hereby call on the U.S. EPA to compel GMC to carry out a permanent remedy of hazardous substances that fully protects the Mohawk environment and way of life.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the Board of Directors Meeting, at which quorum was present, in Washington, DC on February 27, 1992.



Eddie L. Tullis, President
United South and Eastern
Tribes, Inc.



Lovelin Poncho, Secretary
United South and Eastern
Tribes, Inc.