



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

Resolution No. USET 98:09

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DRAFT GUIDELINES IN REFERENCE TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 13007

- WHEREAS**, the United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-three (23) 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 is comprised of delegates from the member tribes leadership; and
- WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers draft Guidelines, in reference to Executive Order 13007, fall short of the intent and purpose of President Clinton's policy in this matter; and
- WHEREAS**, consultation required by statutory law, regulations and the Executive Order is not constituted by a "draft" nor by letters from District Superintendents setting deadlines for reply.
- WHEREAS**, your interpretation of "Ceremonial use" is a total failure to comprehend the term and its multiplicity of meanings of such. This is most evident in their reference to "plants" which in themselves define a sacred site; and
- WHEREAS**, such limitations as you propose are a blatant and unlawful attempt to prescribe limitation on the protection of American Indian religions; and
- WHEREAS**, you defiantly move past existing law and as referred to as the specific and explicit definition of Indian Tribe and/or Indian and would include your own and non-supported by law or policy; and
- WHEREAS**, such persons are in no manner privileged to the considerations such as you endorse; and
- WHEREAS**, we find no statute nor any other allowance for your agency to conduct a "government-to-government relationship" or consultation with other than an Indian Tribe or Indian person as so defined by the Executive Order, the tenants of 25 CFR, and the Alaska Claims Act; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED**, that the USET Board of Directors condemns the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' draft as an example of poor communication and continuation of improper understanding of the Executive Order, an attempted abuse of tribal sovereignty, and as such is unacceptable to the twenty-three federally recognized tribes of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc; be it further

"Because there is strength in Unity"

(USET 98:09)

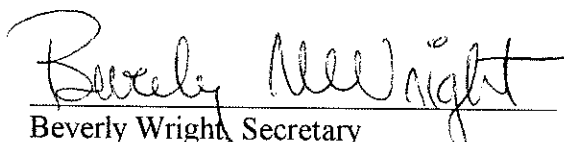
RESOLVED, that the USET staff is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Office of the President, Department of Army, Department of Interior, National Park Service, and the National Conference of NCSPHO.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly approved at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Philadelphia, Mississippi on Thursday, October 30, 1997.



Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.