Resolution No. USET 2000:15

NAGPRA REVIEW COMMITTEE'S DRAFT PRINCIPLES ON "CULTURALLY UNIDENTIFIABLE" HUMAN REMAINS

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising 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 comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and

WHEREAS, American Indian remains are not and have never been “Culturally Unidentifiable” within the belief systems and religious concept and heritage of our peoples; and

WHEREAS, as American Indian remains they are by their very nature culturally known; and

WHEREAS, such remains may be temporarily unidentified but only until such time as a tribe or coalition of tribes, as cultural relatives effect their repatriation and disposition as agreed upon by that tribe(s); and

WHEREAS, there is no “interest”, scientific or otherwise that supersedes the interests and human sensibilities of the peoples more closely associated than all others; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors demands that rules, regulations or conditions for repatriation of these so-called “Culturally Unidentifiable” remains shall be set only by government-to-government consultation on a regional basis with federally recognized American Indian Tribes and not by agency fiat.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Board of Directors Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Verona, NY Thursday, October 28, 1999.

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

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

"Because there is strength in Unity"