USET Resolution No. 2000:87

NAGPRA ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-four (24) 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 National Park Service (NPS) is in possession of American Indian human remains and objects subject to Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); and

WHEREAS, the NPS administers the NAGPRA program; and

WHEREAS, this is an obvious and obnoxious conflict of interest that is potentially self-serving given that the NPS administers NAPGRA; and

WHEREAS, there is, and has been, a gross over emphasis on scientific interest, as demonstrated most recently by magazine and newspaper articles written by the Departmental Consulting Archaeologist/Manager of the Archaeology and Ethnography Program, and others associated with the NPS, as demonstrated by actions in regard to Kennewick Man and DNA testing; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors hereby requests that the Secretary of the Interior remove the NAGPRA administrative structure from the National Park Service and place administration with the Secretariat of the Department of the Interior, and further recommend that Congress consider this issue and resolve the impropriety.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Board Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Houston, TX, Thursday, June 8, 2000.

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

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

"Because there is strength in Unity"