

United South and Eastern Tribes, inc.

USET Resolution No. 2002:074

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of 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 United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is one of the oldest and largest of the federal agencies, and an agency whose undertakings have the highest potential to have impacts upon sites of traditional, religious and cultural significance to Tribes; and

WHEREAS, USACE has not been in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470 et. seq.; 36 CFR 800) and, especially, Section 106 of the Act, concerning Indian rights to protect sites of traditional religious and cultural significance, since the original enactment of the law -- choosing, rather, to create its own regulation, known as "Appendix C;" and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has formally notified USACE repeatedly of its failure to comply with the law and has, most recently, offered to work with USACE in order to create a regulation that will bring USACE into compliance; and

WHEREAS, the failure of USACE to comply with federal law has been the occasion of severe and constant cultural stress to the Tribes and has, upon many occasions, required the expenditures of scarce Tribal economic resources to force any degree of legal compliance; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the ACHP to arrange a meeting with representative(s) of USET's Culture and Heritage Committee, and with policy makers from USACE, for the express purpose of discussing and resolving the issues surrounding USACE's noncompliance.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Nashville, TN, Thursday, June 13, 2002.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly Wright, Secretary

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