

United South and Eastern Tribes, inc.

Resolution No. USET 2003:020

PRESERVATION OF OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT AND OCMULGEE OLD FIELDS TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY

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 tribe's leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proposes to construct a feeder highway designated as the Eisenhower Parkway Extension in central Georgia; and

WHEREAS, this Extension will have an adverse impact upon Ocmulgee National Monument (a National Landmark), and upon Ocmulgee Old Fields, the first Traditional Cultural Property designated east of the Mississippi River, of which both historic properties have high significance to those Tribes which have ancestral and historic ties to Ocmulgee; and

WHEREAS, the construction of this road had been most strenuously opposed by the USET Tribes, as well as by the National Parks Conservation Association and other environmental groups, historic preservationists, and local/regional citizens; and

whereas, the planning for the Extension has proceeded for over a decade, without any attempt on the part of the responsible federal agencies to enter into good-faith, government-to-government consultation with the Tribes, as required by federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors calls upon the FHWA to immediately cease any activities related to the possible construction of the Eisenhower Parkway Extension, and to comply with federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders relating to Consultation with those Tribes whose interests are directly involved.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Board Meeting and EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Uncasville, CT, Thursday, October 31, 2002.

Keller George, President

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Beverly M. Wright, Secretary

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