



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.


Resolution No. USET 2003:021

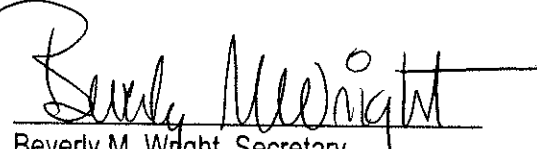
FAILURE OF FORT BENNING, GA, TO CONSULT IN GOOD FAITH

- 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 U.S. Army installation known as Fort Benning (Columbus, GA) has entered into consultation with the Tribes according to federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders in order to codify its stewardship of lands to which the Tribes have ancestral and historic ties; and
- WHEREAS,** two acceptable agreements regarding establishment of an American Indian heritage cemetery at Fort Benning had been negotiated by the Tribes and Fort Benning, in good faith; and
- WHEREAS,** Fort Benning officials now have committed an egregious breach of the consultation process by abrogating their responsibilities as the lead federal agency and attempting to defer their federal responsibilities to consult to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston (SC) District (USACE), declaring the USACE to be the land manager for the Fort Benning reservation and, thereby, entering into a blatant and irresponsible attempt to evade their earlier commitments to the Tribes; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the US Army Environmental Center to enter into the Fort Benning consultation; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors call upon Fort Benning to expeditiously sign the two agreements previously negotiated in good faith.

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
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.