



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2005:071

SUPPORT OF THE EASTERN PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION'S FEDERAL RECOGNITION

- 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,** over the preceding four centuries, the United States and other foreign countries who occupied North America prior to the formation of the United States, did everything they could to eliminate many Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** members of Tribal nations that were not formally recognized by the Federal government continued to maintain their Tribal affiliation and heritage, and have now been seeking federal recognition as Indian Tribes pursuant to federal law and regulation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation (EPTN) was recently recognized by the Federal government, under the federal process for recognizing Indian Tribes as provided in Federal law and regulation; and
- WHEREAS,** the members of the EPTN reside on one of the longest continuously occupied reservation in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the EPTN began its quest for federal recognition in 1978, shortly after the modern Federal tribal recognition process was established, made necessary because the EPTN had established a government-to-government relationship with Connecticut before the Declaration of Independence was signed and the United States was first formed; and
- WHEREAS,** in 1998, when the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was finally able to begin reviewing the Tribe's position for acknowledgment, that petition received significant opposition from the Attorney General of Connecticut and local Connecticut towns; but despite this opposition, on June 24, 2002, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs issued a final decision granting the Tribe's federal acknowledgement; and
- WHEREAS,** less than 90 days following federal recognition, the Attorney General of Connecticut and 20 local Connecticut towns filed an appeal with the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA), asking the Assistant Secretary's final decision be reversed; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2005 the IBIA having accepted the State of Connecticut's appeal challenging the Bar's Final decision lead the IBIA to vacate and remand the June 24, 2002 granted decision to acknowledge the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation's Federal Recognition; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Connecticut and the other applicants appear driven not by concerns about compliance with the recognition regulations, but instead by a desire to stop the expansion of Indian gaming and prohibit future acquisition of federal trust land in Connecticut to ensure that the EPTN can never bring a claim for land against the state; and
- WHEREAS,** it is the first time in history since 1994 that the BIA began reviewing Tribal Recognition decision that whereby a state can set a new precedence to void Federal BIA's final decision granting a Tribe its federal acknowledgement; and

“Because there is strength in Unity”

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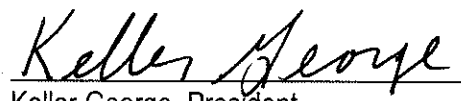
WHEREAS, the action of the State of Connecticut in appealing the federal recognition of the EPTN is an attempt to undermine the process of federal recognition of Indian Tribes and hurts all Tribes; therefore, be it

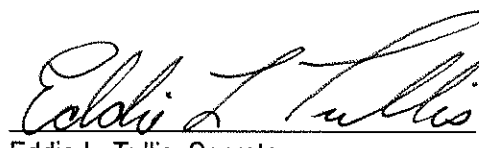
RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors insist that the Bureau of Indian Affairs uphold its final decision made on June 24, 2002, that recognized the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation Federal acknowledgement and not allow a state to set a new precedence for voiding a final federal decision; and, be it further

RESOLVED that the USET Board of Directors directs the Executive Director of USET to forward this resolution to the appropriate officials to assist the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation in their federal recognition.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting at which a quorum was present in Mashantucket, CT on Thursday, June 30, 2005.


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


Eddie L. Tullis, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.