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 Cayuga Nation is a sovereign Indian Nation, occupying and governing lands in Central New York since before the creation of the United States; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the express provisions set forth in the Treaty of Canandaigua and the statutory obligations imposed by the Non-Intercourse Act (25 U.S.C. § 177), the State of New York and other parties misappropriated the Cayuga Nation’s reservation lands and thereby deprived the Cayuga people of their ancestral homelands; and

WHEREAS, the Federal court subsequently dismissed all claims made by the Cayuga Nation in its historic Land Claim litigation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sherill specifically states that the “proper avenue” for creating and securing a Cayuga homeland is the Federal land-into-trust process; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Cayuga Nation, pursuant to the Supreme Court’s directive in the City of Sherill case, applied to the federal government to place its reacquired lands in trust, and the application is currently pending at the United States Department of the Interior; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors urges the United States Department of Interior to expeditiously approve the Cayuga Nation’s fee-to-trust applications in their entirety and thereby fulfill its treaty commitments and promises to, and secure homeland for, the Cayuga people, in recognition of the trust obligation the United States owes to all Indian Tribes in general and the moral and treaty obligations it owes the Cayuga Nation in particular.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 15, 2007.

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"