WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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, in addition to cultural resources on private and state lands, there are hundreds of thousands of cultural resources present on millions of acres of land owned and managed by federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, these federal agencies are responsible for site stewardship and protection of historic properties of significance to Tribes under the National Historic Preservation Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that federal agency funding shortfalls and personnel shortages render these resources vulnerable to looting, vandalism, and irreplaceable destruction; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that the use of remote surveillance technologies can serve in certain cases as a cost-efficient and effective tool to protect these irreplaceable cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes commend the agencies for their progressive work in this protection of cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the USET Tribes continue to stress the importance of meaningful government-to-government consultation with regard to site protection; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors supports this effort, and will explore ways to assist federal agencies in the implementation and funding of these new technologies; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors strongly encourages the continued and increased emphasis on the use of remote surveillance technology by federal agencies in that they:

- Improve partnerships through meaningful government-to-government consultation
- Increase emphasis on cultural resources site protection through the use of remote surveillance technology and other new technologies
- Recommend that Congress allocate new monies to dedicate towards funding, personnel, training and equipment to this endeavor.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed by the USET Board of Directors on Thursday, October 16, 2008.

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

Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"