



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2001:24

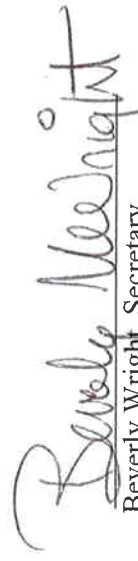
CALLING UPON THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS TO PROTECT AN INDIAN BURIAL SITE

- 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 member Tribes of USET share a common concern for the protection and preservation of the sacred sites and burial sites of the Eastern Indian nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the ancient village known today as Wissetinnevag (present-day Greenfield, MA) is one of the oldest sites in that region, with Indian habitation for 12,000 years, and was the site of the Turner Falls massacre (during King Phillip's War, 1676) in which 300 Indian elders, women, and children were massacred by colonial militia in one of the earliest known massacres of non-combatants in the history of present-day New England; and
- WHEREAS,** both skeletal remains and cremated human remains, which are worthy of the greatest respect and human deference, have been confirmed on this site and it has been listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places; and
- WHEREAS,** despite these facts, the Federally recognized Narragansett Tribe and the not-for-profit Friends of Wissetinnevag have had to fight, for four years, to protect this sacred site from irreparable damages occasioned by repeated attacks;
- WHEREAS,** the Wampanoag people wish to join with the Narragansett in protecting this Native burial, known as a Narragansett burial site and a culturally sensitive area with the possibility of other Tribal people buried there; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** that the USET Tribes call upon the US Department of the Interior/National Park Service immediately to begin real and meaningful consultations with the Federally recognized Narragansett and Wampanoag Tribes, in order to halt the destruction of the human remains and culturally sensitive area, which are of the highest value and worthy of the respect of all cultures.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present in Verona, NY on Thursday, November 2, 2000.


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


Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”