



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
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USET Resolution No. 2010:014

**CALLING UPON THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO DENY THE PERMITTING OF THE CAPE WIND PROJECT
SLATED FOR HORSESHOE SHOAL, NANTUCKET SOUND, MASSACHUSETTS**

- 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,** the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and Mashpee Wampanoag are member Tribes of the Great Nation of Wampanoag People, known as "*The People of the First Light*". Their name defines who they are and differentiates them from all other Tribal Nations. Their name and its definition are their Cultural and Spiritual identity, and the essence of who they are. Since time immemorial, the Wampanoag People have inhabited the area of the eastern most lands and water, and have maintained their Traditional, Spiritual and Cultural connection to them; and
- WHEREAS,** as the People of the First Light; one of the most important aspects and fundamental components of their religious and cultural beliefs and practice is their ability to experience, embrace and give ceremony and prayers of thanksgiving to the first light. These ceremonies, spiritual and religious practices are dependent upon maintaining the ability to view the first light; the eastern horizon vista and view-shed without obstructions. Additionally there are other impacts such as the celestial and solstice ceremonies, which will also be adversely impacted; and
- WHEREAS,** the right to practice their religious ceremony in the traditional manner will be forever denied by a proposed experimental wind farm consisting of 130+/- windmill turbines, with propeller blades reaching approximately 440' above the surface of the water, on about 25 acres of area (about the size of Manhattan); slated to be located in the shallow waters of Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound, in the middle of the shores of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, MA; and
- WHEREAS,** the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and Mashpee Wampanoag, Federally Recognized Tribal Nations and USET member Tribes, most strenuously object to this proposal and opposes the placement of this wind farm in the Traditional Wampanoag Waters of the Religious and Ceremonial Sanctuary; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Park Service's Keeper of the National Register has concurred with the Tribes and deemed this site eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property under all four criteria; and
- WHEREAS,** the permitting of this project would be in direct violation of the spirit and intent of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Executive Order 13007- Indian Sacred Sites, the laws of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (AHPA); therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors continues to support the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and Mashpee Wampanoag and their opposition of the location of the Cape Winds project on Horseshoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound, due to its devastating and destructive impact to the Traditional, Spiritual, Religious and Cultural practices and freedoms of all Wampanoag People as well as the adverse effects this experimental project will have on the surrounding environment in its entirety and totality; and be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors calls upon the Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, to respect the Traditional, Cultural, Spiritual and Religious beliefs of the Wampanoag People and preserve the spiritual integrity and sanctity of the Eastern Horizon, Vista and Horizon View-shed; and to deny the permitting of such a devastating and destructive experiment which will adversely affect and destroy the essence of the tranquility, sanctity and spirituality of this Sacred Place for all time.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 11, 2010.



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



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

"Because there is strength in Unity"