



CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

DATE: _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2026)

A resolution to authorize the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to withdraw from United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) and terminate its membership therein.

12 WHEREAS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians was one of the founding members of
13 USET (the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.) when the organization
14 was formed 1969; and

16 WHEREAS, USET is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization serving thirty-three (33)
17 Federally-recognized tribes located in the Eastern United States; and

19 WHEREAS, unfortunately, USET has increasingly promoted and approved membership
20 by non-Federally-recognized groups (“State-recognized groups”) that
21 cannot meet the requirements under Federal law for become Federally-
22 recognized tribes; and

24 WHEREAS, groups that are State-recognized but are not Federally-recognized tribes do
25 not have the same government-to-government relationship with the United
26 States of America as Federally-recognized tribes do, and the United States
27 does not have the same trust obligations to State-recognized groups; and

29 WHEREAS, the interests of non-Federally-recognized groups sometimes diverge
30 significantly from the interests of Federally-recognized tribes, and the
31 divergence sometimes harms Federally-recognized tribes and dilutes the
32 sovereignty of Federally-recognized tribes; and

34 WHEREAS, over the years, USET has become less helpful to Federally-recognized
35 tribes, and the benefit the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians derives from
36 USET today, despite being a founding member, has been diminished; and

38 WHEREAS the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has determined that continued
39 membership in USET is not helpful to the Tribe, and the Tribe is authorized
40 to withdraw from USET and terminate its membership therein.

42 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of
43 Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled at which a quorum is present, the
44 Tribal Council hereby authorizes the Tribe to withdraw from the
45 organization known as the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., and to
46 terminate its membership in that organization.

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2 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED this resolution shall be effective upon ratification by the
3 Principal Chief, and all prior resolutions that are inconsistent with this
4 resolution are rescinded.
5

6 *Submitted by Michell Hicks, Principal Chief.*