

United Tribes of Michigan

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Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director

RESOLUTION # 037 06-11-2015

United Tribes of Michigan Support for Repeal of Section 3003 of the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act, The Southeast Arizona Land Exchange

WHEREAS, the membership of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all of the twelve federally recognized tribes located in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the organization provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations; and

WHEREAS, UTM accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and subsequent related UN outcome documents, place this mission in context with the on-going world struggle for International Indigenous rights. Most important of these provisions is for free, prior and informed consent when an action will effect Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS, it is important for UTM as a part of its mission to give support to other Indigenous Tribal Nations when they seek our support, and as UTM determines that such support is appropriate; and

WHEREAS, San Carlos Apache Chairman Terry Rambler has asked for such support for not only his own Nation but for other Tribal Nations in their region of the American Southwest to protect "Oak Flat", a ceremonial area containing many sacred sites and holy places; and

WHEREAS, misguided action by the US Congress has placed Oak Flat in peril for mining by international corporate interests, harming for generations to come the sacred and ceremonial use of this land. The health in body and spirit of all humankind is harmed when we fail to observe, protect, and maintain the sacred balance on and within Mother Earth.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Tribes of Michigan supports the

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Protection of Oak Flat

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protection of Native sacred and cultural sites located on Federal Lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that United Tribes of Michigan supports legislation to repeal the Land Exchange, Section 3003 of the FY2015 Defense Authorization Act, and urges Congress to enact such legislation expeditiously; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, as long as Section 3003 remains law, the United Tribes of Michigan urges the Administration to make all appropriate efforts to stop implementation of Section 3003, and ensure full transparency and information sharing with the Tribal Nations and the general public of the outcomes of the on-going environmental assessment, including the impacts on tribal religion and culture, prior to issuing a final environmental assessment.

Adopted by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, at a meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held on 6-11-2015.



*Chairman Homer A. Mandoka
UTM President*