

# AMENDED TABLED

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE  
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA

DATE: JAN 08 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 97 (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.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, in Council assembled at which a quorum is present, the Tribal Council hereby authorizes the Tribe to withdraw from the organization known as the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., and to 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4 resolution are rescinded.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.*

PASSED

Cherokee Council House  
Cherokee, North Carolina

JAN 08 2026

Date

Amendment to Resolution No. 97 (2026):

Line 21; change the word "for" to "to"