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Date

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_ (2017)

**WHEREAS,** plants native to the EBCI's aboriginal lands provide food and important cultural resources for Tribal members; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribe's aboriginal lands include the area that is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

**WHEREAS,** for years the Tribe has struggled to maintain the right of Tribal members to gather traditional plants in the Park; and

**WHEREAS,** the National Park Service has amended the regulation governing the gathering of plants in national parks to allow members of federally recognized Tribes to enter agreements with the National Park Service by which Tribal members may gather and remove plants or plant parts for traditional purposes and personal use; and

**WHEREAS,** the Tribe's Natural Resources Program has entered discussions with the National Park Service to enter an agreement under 36 CFR Part 2 to allow EBCI members to gather and remove certain plants and plant parts from lands within the Park, in particular "Sochan" (also known as the Green-headed cone flower) (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), and "Ramps" (*Allium tricoccum*); and

**WHEREAS,** to provide the foundation for the agreement, the National Park Service must conduct resource studies and complete an environmental assessment ("EA") as required by the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"); and

**WHEREAS,** to get this project moving, the Tribe has been asked to contribute a modest amount of money to get the resource studies and the EA started, and the Tribe, by previous communication with the National Park Service, expressed that it would provide that money.

**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, that the EBCI commits funding, in amount not to exceed sixty-eight thousand one hundred dollars (\$68,100.00), from the Tribal General Fund, to support staffing, operational, and contractual costs to support resource studies and performance of an Environmental Assessment to support Tribal efforts to maintain the ability of EBCI members to gather traditional plants and plant parts in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

**THEREFORE IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the allocated funds will be donated to the “Friends of the Smokies”, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization (Tax ID: 1564782), and which is an official National Park Service partner of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, for use by the National Park Service upon the condition that the funds shall be used for the performance of the necessary resource studies and Environmental Assessment.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that all resolutions that are inconsistent with this resolution are rescinded and that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification by the Principal Chief.

Submitted by: Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources