



The South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission

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Representing an estimated 80% of the Native Americans of South Carolina

January 8, 2008

Dr. Sherry Hutt, Manager
National NAGPRA Program,
National Park Service, Docket No. 1024-AC84,
1849 C Street, NW., (2253),
Washington, DC 20240.

Re: RIN 1024-AD68

Dear Dr. Hutt:

As you consider the proposed revision to 25 U.S.C. 3005 Please consider that not all Indians are federal Indians.

The issue of respect for the ancients and how (and who) should ensure that they are returned to the earth, should transcend the politics of who is allowed to be Indian and who is not. We are their kin! We have a blood tie! We have a cultural relationship, and we want them back!

Most of the remains in South Carolina are not federal. They died before we ever had federal Indians! They did not depend on law to decide who they were, as we are compelled to do today. It is asinine but, under today's standards, there could have been no Indians, on this continent until the Europeans decided it so.

These people are found to be unaffiliated, and no claim has been established by any Federal Tribe. The document referenced above allows for museums to manage the remains. Museums are not federal, either. Therefore, it is feasible that state Indians can be involved. It can be done!

It is imperative that we don't allow this opportunity to pass without solving the dilemma in South Carolina, where some remains have been shelved for decades. It is imperative that you allow us to return our ancestors to the earth.

The museum shelf is not a proper resting place for our people! They do not belong to the state nor the country, they belong to their people and they belong to eternity. We are their descendants, and we want them back!

We see where the documents allow for Non-Federal Groups to be involved somewhat, and we appreciate that. However, we ask for more. We believe that when the remains are not identifiable and are maintained within a state, that the controlling document should make provisions for the state to manage the remains.

Thus, the Governor, and the state Archeologists can become a large factor in determining how the remains are to be handled, and who would be involved, in their re-interment.

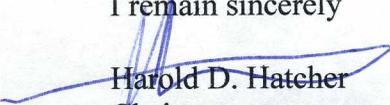
Local leaders know the state's people. They know the history of the state's Indian Tribes and Groups. They are the most informed and best advised to ensure that our ancestors are treated properly and returned to the earth, quickly, respectfully, and expediently.

Additionally, they are the most responsive to local needs and issues, and when state officials work with state entities, it does not infringe upon (nor imply) any federal relationship with them. The state governments already have a government to government relationship with the Federals and we, state Indians, already have a government to government relationship with the state.

Dr. Hutt, please help us get our people off of the shelf and back into the earth. Human dignity demands it!

Thank you, for your time in this matter and for favorable consideration of my comments. Thank you also, for what you do for the Ancients.

I remain sincerely


Harold D. Hatcher
Chairman