



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Committee on Repatriation
Department of Anthropology
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824

October 9, 1996

Ms. Tessie Naranjo, Chair
NAGPRA Review Committee
c/o National Park Service
Archaeology and Ethnography Program
800 North Capitol Ave., NW
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20002

Re: Society for American Archaeology Comments on the NAGPRA Review Committee
Draft Recommendations on the Disposition of Culturally Unidentifiable Remains

Dear Ms. Naranjo:

The attached document titled "Society for American Archaeology Comments on the NAGPRA Review Committee Draft Recommendations on the Disposition of Culturally Unidentifiable Remains" is respectfully submitted by the Society for American Archaeology to the NAGPRA Review Committee in response to their solicitation for comment. The Society for American Archaeology has made a concerted effort to assess the implications of these draft recommendations in light of NAGPRA compliance by tribes and institutions and has incorporated the comments of our members in this document.

The SAA appreciates the amount of careful work that went into the construction of these draft recommendations. While we still feel that these recommendations are premature and should be informed by our experience with the repatriation of affiliated remains, and analysis of the patterns in reporting of culturally unidentifiable remains, the SAA Committee on Repatriation looks forward to continued cooperative dialogue on this issue. We hope you find the attached commentary useful in your discussions and revisions of the draft document.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment, and we will be happy to provide additional commentary or documentation.

Sincerely,

William A. Lovis, Ph.D.
Chair, Committee on Repatriation
Society for American Archaeology

William D. Lipe, Ph.D.
President
Society for American Archaeology

cc: SAA Committee on Repatriation
Donald Craib, SAA Manager of Government Affairs

Enclosure