

Senator BUMPERS. Mr. Lovis.

**STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM LOVIS, CHAIRMAN, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY**

Dr. LOVIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Society for American Archaeology is very pleased to be able to provide comment on this very important pair of historic preservation bills. We have submitted written testimony and also a detailed analysis of the archaeological provisions of 1579 and 1579 which we would like entered into the record.

The Society for American Archaeology has as its primary concerns the protection, preservation and study of the non-renewable archaeological heritage of the United States, and I want to stress the term "non-renewable". Once these resources are destroyed, they cannot be replaced.

The SAA has identified several major issues which face archaeology and archaeological preservation in the United States at present and, presumably, in the future. These include, firstly, the looting and vandalism of sites, the whole problem of site destruction, which includes a range of problems including the intentional mining of sites for artifacts to enter national and international markets, intentional vandalism of sites through bulldozing, structure destruction, defacing and so forth, and then unintentional destruction through other forms of land use—for example, offroad vehicles destroying ancient roadways.

A second major concern includes the illicit antiquities trade, which includes an illegal trade in human remains, illegal movement of artifacts, monument fragments, et cetera, in violation of international reciprocity agreements which prohibit the import or export of artifacts.

A third major area is the protection of sites on private land and the identification of sites on private lands. There are currently few, if any, incentives for private property owners to protect and preserve significant sites in their custodianship under current law.

We feel that the contributions of S. 1578 and 1579 to the solution of these problems outweigh any current minor issues that we might have over the specifics of these bills. We feel that 1578 and 1579 significantly strengthen the Archaeological Resource Protection Act and the Historic Preservation Act by providing greater protection, site protection, through the National Register and National Monuments programs.

It further broadens the enforcement of site protection and the associated penalties that accrue to individuals who violate existing law. It continues the ongoing anti-looting initiatives of Federal land management and compliance agencies through mechanisms such as the identification of archaeological resources of critical importance.

In terms of the issue of the illicit artifact trade, the establishment of an international conference on the antiquities trade is a significant step in the right direction to getting some resolution to this problem. The Society for American Archaeology would hope that the outcome of such a conference would include some consen-

sus statement finding illegal international trade in antiquities an unacceptable phenomenon, that there be recommendations for legislation and accords to curb such activities at the national and international levels, and that there be recommendations for cooperative efforts to enforce the provisions of such legislation and accords.

Educational programming is an important component of 1578 and 1579. We see it expanding the base of trained professionals and paraprofessionals who can disseminate archaeological and historic preservation programming and information to the broader public through interpretation and training. And we firmly believe that by broadening the base of the educated public we are going to enhance the ability of the citizenry to protect its historic national heritage.

S. 1579 promotes the preservation of archaeological resources on private land by expanding State historic preservation programs to identify National Register-quality sites on private properties, and to provide incentives for preservation and the dissemination of information.

Furthermore, the establishment of tribal preservation programs takes a significant step in incorporating native peoples into the historic preservation program in such a fashion that they will be partners in preserving the collective national heritage of the United States.

Mr. Senator, my other comments are in my written statement and I will conclude my testimony at this time. I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Lovis follows:]