



January 10, 2013

Mr. Doug McMillon
President and Chief Executive Officer
Wal-Mart International
702 S.W. 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716-8611

Dear Mr. McMillon,

I write as president of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) to express the SAA's serious concern regarding the circumstances surrounding the construction of the Wal-Mart de Mexico Bodega Aurrera at San Juan Teotihuacan, Mexico.


SAA is an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to the research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With more than 7,000 members, SAA represents professional archaeologists in colleges and universities, museums, government agencies, and the private sector. SAA has members in all 50 states as well as many other nations around the world, including Mexico.

We, along with the rest of the public, learned the details of the process that led to the construction of the Wal-Mart within the boundaries of the ancient city of Teotihuacan through the investigative reporting published in the New York Times on December 17, 2012. Rather than recite the allegations of misconduct made against employees and agents of Wal-Mart de Mexico, suffice it to say that the questionable actions by company representatives that led to the construction of the Bodega Aurrera were unfortunate, unnecessary, and showed disregard to the cultural heritage of Mexico. That this took place within the statutorily-defined, archaeologically-sensitive "buffer zone" surrounding the archaeological park only adds to the impression that, for Wal-Mart de Mexico, it was "business at any cost".

Wal-Mart and its subsidiaries constitute one of the world's largest companies, as well as one of its largest landowners. As it seeks to continue expanding into developing nations, Wal-Mart will have a large responsibility in ensuring the proper care of, and consideration for, archaeological and cultural resources impacted by future company projects. We at the SAA understand the importance of Wal-Mart meeting its social responsibility and we appreciate that the company will require the assistance of the archaeological community in this endeavor.

If desired, we stand ready to assist Wal-Mart to engage the archaeology community and rebuild trust so that future endeavors properly balance the protection of the past with the needs of the future. Everyone would win if Wal-Mart were to become known as a pro-active champion of cultural patrimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William F. Limp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

William F. Limp
President

Cc: Mr. Mike Duke, President and CEO, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.