



July 11, 2011

The Honorable Gary R. Herbert  
Governor  
Utah State Capitol Complex  
350 North State Street, Suite 200  
PO Box 142220  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220

Dear Governor Herbert:

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the Register of Professional Archaeologists to express the Register's concern over the recent dismissals of archaeological and anthropological staff from the State Antiquities Office.

Now-former State Archaeologist Kevin Jones is a highly respected Registered Professional Archaeologist. In 2005 he was the first recipient of the Register's Special Achievement Award, presented by the Register in recognition of "a profound and meaningful contribution to the promotion of professionalism in archaeology".

Acceptance onto the Register, which currently numbers well over 2000 individuals nationwide and beyond (with 33 Registrants in the State of Utah), is conditional not only upon demonstration of qualifications and experience, but also on adherence to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Research Performance that are the standard for the archaeological profession. While we are of course not privy to the specific circumstances of his dismissal and that of his two colleagues, it is most surprising to learn that a person of his standing in the archaeological profession should be so summarily terminated after so many years of devoted service to your State and its outstanding archaeological resources.

Our main concern is with the loss of professionalism that these dismissals will impose on the State of Utah. All branches of the State Government will now be deprived of the expert advice and input that is needed to make the decisions mandated under Utah Code Title 9, Chapter 8.

I understand that thought is being given to replacing these three positions with a single post occupied by a Forensic/Physical Anthropologist. Such a person, however highly qualified in that specialization, is very unlikely to meet the standards of archaeological expertise required to be a Registered as a Professional Archaeologist, and which I believe the State of Utah deserves to have.

I therefore respectfully urge you to give close consideration to maintaining the position of State Archaeologist in Utah, and to appointing an individual to that position who has the qualifications and experience to deal with the complex, diverse and enriching archaeological sites and districts in the State of Utah.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Burrow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ian Burrow, Ph.D.  
President