



FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL, INC.

March 6, 2015

The Honorable Charles S. Dean, Sr.
State Senator, District 5
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Dean:

I am writing as President of the Florida Archaeology Council in regard to possible unintended consequences of the 2014 Amendment 1 to the Florida Constitution on Water and Land Conservation. The Florida Archaeological Council (FAC) is Florida's only organization of professional archaeologists. Its members include professional archaeologists in the private sector, museums, universities and colleges, and state and federal agencies. First, I want to thank you for your efforts to restore funding for the purchase of natural areas and historic resources across Florida. Historic resources such as prehistoric and historic archaeological sites are particularly fragile, are easily damaged by development, and are non-renewable.

We have recently learned that the Florida legislature may do away with the Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund (CARL) to create a new pool of money under Amendment 1 focused only on the purchase of natural and historic resources. In our experience, CARL funds have been used wisely not only for land and historic site purchases but also importantly for the management of state lands and historic properties. CARL funding is currently the principal support for the Bureau of Archaeological Research (Florida Division of Historical Resources), which employs both terrestrial and underwater archaeologists who assist state agencies, professional researchers and the public with archaeological resource identification and management through best practices. In addition, CARL also funds the state's extensive archaeological collections facility and conservation laboratory, as well as outstanding interpretive programs at state sites and museums. Wise management and interpretation are essential elements for showcasing the public benefits of state ownership and protection of natural and historic resources.

We urge you to work with the legislature to insure that funding for the Bureau of Archaeological Research and related programs are continued under the new, enhanced state lands acquisition program. Wise management and public interpretation of fragile archaeological resources must remain a priority for Florida.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth D. Benchley".

Dr. Elizabeth D. Benchley, President
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cc:

Ken Detzner, Florida Secretary of State
Robert F. Bendus, Director, Division of Historical Resources