Laura Dean

From: Valerie Hauser
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2006 3:10 PM
To: Tom McCulloch; Laura Dean
Subject: FW: Draft Working Principles

John Nau.doc (22 KB)

Valerie Hauser
Native American Program Coordinator
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-----Original Message-----
From: Roseanne LaRoche [mailto:lroseanne@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2006 1:51 PM
To: Valerie Hauser
Subject: Draft Working Principles

Roseannei LaRoche

John Nau, Chairman
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Washington DC

Honorable Chairman Nau:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Advisory Council's Draft Working Principles which will be used in revising the 1988 Human Remains Policy.

As you know, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe has fought hard to ensure culturally-relevant treatment and protection of our ancestors' resting places. Our Nation has worked for nearly twenty years to locate, repatriate and rebury all ancestral remains and burial property which were wrongfully taken and stored in universities, museums and federal repositories all over the country. We did this to restore to our ancestors their self-evident, human right to rest in peace and to protect those whose resting places are still intact. We also did this because our teachings tell us that the contents of our ancestors' burials are not meant to be used for scientific or academic research or study; this type of activity is a violation of our spiritual beliefs.

To the extent that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act applies to federal undertakings with the potential to impact our ancestors' resting places and which could trigger the terms of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), we agree that guidance would be useful in those states which do not have a burial protection law. All guidance related to Native burials, however, must reflect the beliefs and customs of Native peoples. Those states which lack a specific law dealing with Native burials must join the ACHP in government-to-government consultation with those Tribes whose homelands are now within those states' boundaries.

We request further consultation with the Advisory Council to discuss this and other serious concerns we have with the proposed Working Principles. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to plan a government-to-government consultation between the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Advisory Council. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to hosting your visit here at the Kul Wicasa Oyate homelands.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Jandreau, Chairman
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe