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Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Native American Program  
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June 26, 2006

Re: Archeology Task Force's Draft Policy Statement On  
"The Treatment of Human Remains, Burial Sites and Funerary Objects"

The comment from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) is simply that we need more time.

The issue of the treatment of our Ancestors' remains, burial sites and funerary objects; and its implications are too important to attempt to responsibly address all of our concerns at this time. To fully consider the long-term ramifications, residual effects and possible adverse affects of this important piece of policy regulation; it is imperative that we fully comprehend them.

We must have adequate time to confer with our Traditional Cultural Leaders, Religious Leaders and Spiritual Leaders, in order to ascertain the broader perspective and scope of this most important issue. Plus we must solicit the comments of our extended Nations' Peoples and respond both individually and collectively, as is the traditional practice of Indian People.

For the Indigenous Tribal Nations, it is our honor and responsibility to protect and preserve the final resting places of our Ancestors. It is not a responsibility that is taken lightly, nor can we be expected to make final comments on a process that has the potential to impact our people for generations to come within this abbreviated timeframe.

Since the vast majority of human remains that will be impacted by this policy are in fact Indigenous Indian Peoples, I/we are requesting that an extension to the "comment period" be afforded the Tribal Nations. And, that further meaningful consultation be allowed to take place and continue; until a consensus can be reached on this proposed policy change.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above referenced phone number.

Yours Truly,

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais  
Tribal Historic Preservation

Cc: Cultural And Historic Commission, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)  
NATHPO  
USET Heritage and Culture Committee