August 28, 2019

Ms. Melanie O'Brien
Designated Federal Officer
Native American Graves Protection
and Repatriation Committee
National NAGPRA Program (2253)
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-27656

Dear Ms. O'Brien,

We write concerning the call for nominations for two representatives of national museum and scientific organizations for the National NAGPRA Review Committee (RC). The Society for American Archaeology (SAA), the American Anthropological Association (AAA), and the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) would like to nominate Drs. Heather Joy Hecht Edgar, Patrick Lyons, and Cissy Farm for these positions.

In their capacities as president of the SAA, AAA, and AIA, Dr. Joe E. Watkins, Dr. Alex Barker and Dr. Jodi Magness are authorized by their Boards of Directors to make these nominations.

SAA is an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to the research, interpretation, and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With more than 7,500 members, the Society 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.

AAA has nearly 10,000 members dedicated to advancing our understanding of the human condition and applying that understanding to tackling some of the world's toughest challenges. Founded in 1902, AAA publishes 22 journals, stages several research conferences and an ethnographic film / media festival each year, supports professional development, and has an initiative to engage in wide ranging conversations on important but sometimes difficult topics like race and immigration.

AIA promotes archaeological inquiry and public understanding of the material record of the human past to foster an appreciation of diverse cultures and our shared humanity. Founded in 1879 the AIA has nearly 210,000 Members and more than 100 local societies in the United States, Canada, and overseas.

Drs. Edgar and Lyons have served admirably during their terms on the RC. They have demonstrated their deep practical knowledge of NAGPRA, their commitment to its implementation, and their dedication to working with Native American tribes on repatriation issues. Although Dr. Edgar's regional specialization is the currently well-represented Southwest, it is important to have the perspective of a physical anthropologist on the Review Committee. We were also impressed by Dr. Lyons' ability and willingness to step in as chair when needed, and in the trust that the other committee members had in him to ask him to serve in that capacity. Both have commendably handled the challenging issues faced by the RC. They strongly deserve re-appointment to the panel.

In addition to recommending the reappointment of Dr. Edgars and Lyons, our organizations respectfully nominate Linda Lee (Cissy) Farm. There can be few candidates who have the background and experience of Ms. Farm. As you know, she is a Native Hawaiian attorney who brings a deep interest in cultural heritage and a thorough understanding of the law and its regulations. She understands the work of museum compliance through her tenure by serving as the interim director of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. She has also served as both a member and chairwoman of the RC. During that time, she was thoughtful, well prepared, evenhanded, and highly regarded by the other committee members as well as stakeholders.

Copies of their vitas and contact information are attached. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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