

COUNCIL OF THE ORIGINAL MICCOSUKEE SIMANOLEE NATION

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

CALL FOR URGENT ACTION

OPPOSITION TO FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL 803

AND COMPANION BILL FLORIDA SENATE BILL 1054

"CITIZEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERMIT"

BILLS, HR803 AND SB1054 – SUBMERGED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES - "CITIZEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERMIT" PROMOTE VANDALISM, LOOTING, AND, THE SALE OF ARTIFACTS FROM SACRED ABORIGINAL INDIGENOUS PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC SITES. HB803 AND SB1054 ARE IN CONFLICT WITH FLORIDA STATE LAWS, FEDERAL LAWS, INTERNATIONAL LAWS, AND ABORIGINAL INDIGENOUS NATURAL LAW, AND ARE SEEN BY ABORIGINAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AS A PATHWAY TO DESTROY OUR CULTURE AND SACRED (HOLY) SITES, PAVING THE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT, OIL AND GAS PIPELINES UNDER RIVERS, AND SPRINGS, AND ALL THE REST.

If passed, these bills would provide archaeological permits, through a program to be implemented by the Florida State Division of Historical Resources, to any individual for the cost of an annual permit fee of \$100.00. The permit holder may excavate, and keep artifacts removed from State waterways for private collections or for sale. Although the law applies to "submerged" resources, potentially there is a threat to stream banks and other sites adjacent to the waterways - resulting in significant impact, damage, destruction and desecration to Sacred Aboriginal Indigenous prehistoric and historic archeological sites.

According to Kimberly L. Faulk, Chair of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology: Any location with an "exposed" artifact not already associated with a "known" archaeological site will be fair game under this new program – this means "burials".

Words of Bobby C. Billie, one of the Clan Leaders and Spiritual Leader, Council of the Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples:

"Our Village Sites, Ceremonial Sites, and Sacred (Holy) Burial Sites have been there from generation to generation harming no one, but when you disturb these sites, it will harm the human life and Cycle of Life. Therefore it is prohibited to disturb these sites. They must be left untouched."

“Individuals that walk on, disturb, or excavate burial sites must be warned that handling human remains or direct exposure to the site and exposure to burial items may affect their overall health in the immediate future or sometime during their lifetime.”

Underwater Disturbances of Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples’ Sacred (Holy) Burial Sites:

“We have been saying the Spirits of the Land are connected to the People. Not very often Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples talk about Spirits of the Water. We do not disturb the Spirits of the Water. We respect them and that is how everything should remain. We know that is why most Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples have never talked about the Spirits of the Water, but we will say this, that has been disturbed throughout the country. We tell you: Do not disturb the Spirits of the Water. That means also Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples’ resting places under the Water or Artifacts or other Belongings. We know who these Peoples are. They are our Ancestors and we tell you to respect them and leave them alone.”

“It is rightfully the right of Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples to protect these sites and preserve the sanctity at our sites. We are the only ones with the knowledge to advise properly what can and cannot be done. Non-Indigenous Peoples do not have this knowledge and do not have the right to determine what should or should not occur at these sites. It is up to the Aboriginal Indigenous Peoples to decide. They know what to do and will tell you what to do.”

Send letters of opposition to the Sponsor of HB803 and Sponsor of SB1054, asking them to withdraw their bills, and send copies of your letters to the senator and representative in your area. Please also copy your letters to the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples to be compiled and presented to members of the House, Senate, Governor, and Secretary of State.

SB 1054, Sponsor, Senator Charles S. Dean, 311 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

HB803, Sponsor, Charlie Stone, 1102 The Capitol, 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300.

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