



Department of Cultural Affairs State of New Mexico

June 19, 2007

Bill Richardson
Governor

Mathew J. Wedel, Ph.D
University of California
Museum of Paleontology
1101 Valley Life Science Building
Berkeley, California 94720-4780

Stuart A. Ashman
Secretary

New Mexico
History Museum/
Palace of the Governors

Museum of Fine Arts

Museum of International
Folk Art

Museum of Indian
Arts and Culture

Museum of Natural
History & Science

Museum of
Space History

Bruce King
Farm & Ranch
Heritage Museum

National Hispanic
Cultural Center

New Mexico
State Monuments

Office of
Archaeological Studies

New Mexico
State Library

New Mexico Arts

New Mexico Historic
Preservation Division

Museum Services

Administrative Services

Dear Mr. Martz, Mr. Taylor and Dr. Wedel,

I have reviewed carefully the claims and allegations made by you in your letter to me of June 7, 2007. I have also read the blog to which you sent me the link.

Certainly, I agree with your assessment that any scholarly discourses produced by the museum should stand above reproach within the scientific community. Recognizing that there are often differences of opinion on scientific matters, scholarly discussion is essential.

However, after discussing this matter with Dr. Lucas and Dr. Hunt, I find that they adhered to the publishing practices and policies of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

Additionally, judging from the number of articles and publications that you cite, it is clear that both Dr. Lucas and Dr. Hunt spend a great deal of time on scholarly research. This is commendable, given the myriad administrative duties that are part and parcel of their assignments.

On the matter of the blog, I would like to advise you that there are many false statements cited there. New Mexico State Laws provide for recompense when defamation results from false statements that are published. In the law, publication occurs when a person makes an intentional or negligent defamatory communication to one other person than the person defamed. HJI-13-1003 NMRA 2002. I have advised Dr. Hunt and Dr. Lucas to prepare a letter of complaint to the New Mexico Attorney General for further action.

Finally, on the primary subject of your communication, it is clear from the material I received that you are very committed to high quality scientific investigation. I commend you for that and encourage you to find a scientific publication outlet to express your ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Ashman".

Stuart A. Ashman
Cabinet Secretary