

July 22, 2007

Mr. Gary King, Attorney General
Santa Fe Office
408 Galisteo Street
Villagra Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Mr. King;

On June 7th, 2007, we sent a letter to Stewart Ashman, Secretary, Department of Cultural Affairs for the State of New Mexico inquiring about whether there had been unprofessional behavior and perhaps plagiarism on the part of staff at The New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science. We provided Mr. Ashman with details of the instances that concerned us and gave full citation in support.

It is evident from Mr. Ashman's response to us, that he did not make a complete investigation of our concerns, which he dismissed. He also threatened us with legal reprisal by your office for postings made on an internet blog relating to this matter and cited in the correspondence.

We request that your office exercise its oversight function and examine our questions about the professional behavior on the part of New Mexico state employees. We have made similar requests to The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology where this matter has been referred to the Ethics Committee, and to the University of New Mexico where one of the employees in question is an adjunct professor. We have not yet received a finding from the Society or a response from the University.

Clarification on the matter of any reprisal action by your office against us is also requested. In our view, we and the others who posted on the blog in question should not be placed in jeopardy by a New Mexico state official for bringing these questions and other related matters to light.

We attach copies of the correspondence between Mr. Ashman and ourselves. If you have any questions, please contact us using e-mail, or by calling (806) 790-9450.

Sincerely,

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