



May 28, 2014

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: *Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science, and Technology Act, or FIRST Act (H.R. 4186)*

Dear Chairman Smith:

I write as President of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) to express SHA's strong opposition to the FIRST Act.

SHA and its members fully support the statement issued by NSF's Board on April 24 that "some of [the FIRST Act's] provisions and tone suggest that Congress intends to impose constraints that would compromise NSF's ability to fulfill its statutory purpose." We believe that the FIRST Act would stifle innovation and discourage exploration, in opposition to the values that form the very cornerstones of our nation's past and future success.

SHA And Its Members

With more than 2,300 members, the SHA is the largest organization in the world dedicated to the archaeological study of the modern world and the third largest anthropological organization in the United States. Members come from a dozen countries, and most are professional archaeologists who teach, work in museums or consulting firms, or have government posts. The SHA and its members strongly support the protection of cultural and historical resources and sites around the nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. Please contact me if SHA can be of any assistance.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Charles Ewen

Dr. Charles Ewen
President, Society for Historical Archaeology
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