

November 19, 2021

Via Electronic Mail

Chief Gary Batton
The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Drawer 1210
Durant, Oklahoma 74821-1548

David Sickey, Tribal Chairman
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. Box 818
Elton, Louisiana 70532

David W. Hill, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Chief Nelson Harjo
Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town
P.O. Box 187
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883-0187

Chief Greg P. Chilcoat
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
PO Box 1498
Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, Oklahoma 74821

Anne Mullins, THPO Director
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
30290 Josie Billie Highway
PMB 1004
Clewiston, Florida 33440

Dear Tribal Representatives:

We appreciate and enjoyed the recent visit from the Muscogee Nation delegation. As discussed during that meeting, The University of Alabama is honored to serve as the steward of Moundville Archaeological Park, one of the nation's premier and best-preserved cultural heritage sites. As part of the University's intensive and respectful preservation efforts of Moundville over the last century, we have consulted with individual tribes to return ancestral remains. In regard to your June 11, 2021 joint request, The University of Alabama seeks to consult and acknowledge the joint claim for human remains and funerary objects from the Muskogean-speaking tribes to the Moundville site and associated sites in Tuscaloosa and Hale Counties, Alabama.

The University will provide a more detailed response to you in the coming days outlining our thoughts on the most productive and efficient manner to address the pending joint request through the consultation process. It is our hope that, in joining with the tribes in consultation, all parties can reaffirm their shared goals of honoring and preserving the cultural heritage of the Moundville civilization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JTD', is positioned above the typed name.

James T. Dalton
Executive Vice President and Provost

cc:
Dr. Stuart R. Bell, President
The University of Alabama