

Route 1 , Box 210
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

June 20, 1975

Dr. J.A. Eichenberger
P.O. Box 14
Saverton, Mo. 63467

Dear Allen:

I have long been an ardent admirer of you and your substantial contributions to the profession and welcome this opportunity to express my opposition to Section 13 of House Bill No. 787. I am only one of the many thousands sharing the need for your remarkable accurate replicas of archaeological specimens. The State of Missouri should be proud to have some one of your ability to continue this important phase of archaeology.

We all have strong feelings regarding the preservation of our heritage and the antiquities of our nation and the world and, in many instance, our only chance to see a collection from a particular site is through a study of your replicas. Prohibiting your work of producing accurate replicas for study will substantially deter the need for vast populations of aboriginal artifacts which aid in the preservation of our prehistory.

I do not agree with the wording of section 13 of this bill and, in fact, since the making of stone tools is definitely an art, I believe it would be unconstitutional to prohibit anyone from practicing this art. Certainly, I agree that they should never be sold or given as genuine artifacts, but their replication, whether it is by flintknapping actual stone or by your casting, is a preservation of an ancient art and technology and a valuable aid to those researching lithic technology and typeology. This section of the bill should be rewritten to encourage the use of plastic replicas for use in museums and universities. It is only possible to understand stone working techniques and subsequent typeology by experimental archaeology and lithic technology. Flintworking classes are now being held at many of our major universities and section 13 of this will as it now stands would prohibit this important research.

Your work is internationally famous. Marie Wormington, one of the delegates of the American scientists who visited the major museums and universities of the Peoples Republic of Red China took a collection of your outstanding work there and writes that they were most impressed. It would have been impossible for her to take the original artifacts and thus we have an example of the importance of replicas.

It will be an international drastic blow to archaeology and anthropology if Bill 787 is not reconsidered for section 13 defeats the purpose of preserving the history of the prehistoric past.

Again, thanks for your substantial contribution to the profession.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

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