



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND

PAUL V. MILDE III  
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SIXTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS  
TRANSPORTATION

August 26, 2024

Danielle Moretti-Langholtz, PhD  
Buck Woodard, PhD  
William & Mary Department of Anthropology  
P.O. Box 8795  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795

Dear Drs. Moretti-Langholtz and Woodard,

I write regarding your letter to United States Representative Abigail Spanberger, dated August 14, 2024.

In your letter regarding the Stafford County Historical Society's (SCHS) questioning of the legitimacy of the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia, Inc. (PITV), you accuse members of the Society of being salacious, defamatory, mean spirited, vindictive, rooted in bigotry, self-appointed historians, and misinformed. Having read and reviewed every document produced by the members of the SCHS on the topic of the PITV, I see only a recitation of the historical research performed by Society members and requests for additional information to further their research.

Your letter also states that none of the recognized Virginia tribes "have an uninterrupted historical record...Gaps in the documentary record for Virginia tribes should not be held as conclusive evidence that they are not Native, nor that they are not communities with ancestral ties to the region's Indigenous peoples." The extensive research conducted by the SCHS did not reveal "gaps" in the PITV's documentation, but could not locate any documentation whatsoever. Indeed, despite their best efforts, documentation from the mid-Seventeenth Century through the Twentieth Century appears to be nonexistent.

House Joint Resolution 150 (2010) states, "long-standing oral history, as well as family, church, land, and other records, maintain that several families native to the Patawomeck ancestral area trace their lineage to the tribe." As this legislation was approved by the General Assembly only

fifteen years ago, and was drafted and enacted based on the belief such documentation exists, it is perfectly reasonable for SCHS to request that documentation.

In my understanding, the SCHS is merely requesting to see the documentation referenced in HJR 150. I consider this request to be reasonable and appropriate. Ascribing nefarious motives to the members of an organization devoted to accurately documenting the history of our community is unjustified and ahistorical.

I echo the Stafford County Historical Society's request to see this documentation and would appreciate it being forwarded to me when it is produced and delivered to the Society.

Respectfully yours,



Paul V. Milde III  
Virginia House of Delegates  
64th District

CC: Dr. Katherine A. Rowe  
President, William & Mary  
Suzanne Raitt PhD  
Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences  
Audrey Horning PhD, Chair, and Forrest D. Murden Professor  
Rep. Abigail Spanberger  
Rep. Jennifer Wexton  
Rep. Morgan Griffith  
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