



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

PAUL V. MILDE III
25 CENTREPORT PARKWAY
SUITE 102
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA 22406

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 Patowomeck 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.

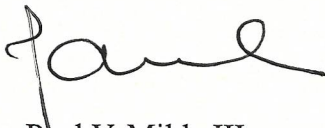
House Joint Resolution 150 (2010) states, "long-standing oral history, as well as family, church, land, and other records, maintain that several families native to the Patowomeck ancestral area trace their lineage to the tribe." As this legislation was approved by the General Assembly only

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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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