

Illinois State Museum

Public Comments related to Facility Closure

As of 8/11/2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

July 21, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

I am writing in regards to the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System. I am deeply concerned about the ISM System's proposed closure, and I wish to voice my support for the continued operation of its museums and galleries.

For over 120 years, the ISM System has provided the citizens of Illinois with intriguing exhibitions and educational resources that offer valuable insight into the state's natural resources and heritage. As shown by its active federal research grants and globally recognized staff, the ISM System is an internationally recognized institution with a strong reputation for scientific excellence. Its locations throughout Illinois host over 13 million objects of state, national, and global importance.

The ISM System is a significant resource for teachers and schoolchildren. In 2014 alone, over 40,000 students and 2,300 educators benefited from its facilities and activities. If this institution closes its doors, the people of Illinois will lose one of the greatest services dedicated to preserving our heritage and ensuring the academic success of our children.

Please consider the services the Illinois State Museum System provides our great state and continue the operation of these museums. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator



Andy Manar
STATE SENATOR • 48th DISTRICT

July 6, 2015

Honorable Donne Trotter
627 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Donald Moffitt
217-N Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Trotter and Representative Moffitt:

Please accept this letter as my submission of written testimony opposing Governor Rauner's proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum, which is to be heard Monday, July 13.

Closing the Illinois State Museum fails to achieve significant budgetary savings and in fact has detrimental long-term effects.

This decision fails to account for the financial and social costs of indefinitely closing the museum.

The financial costs present themselves immediately. Shuttering this facility that helps bring in tourism and commerce to both Springfield and the State of Illinois will hurt the city and regional economy. This loss is compounded across Illinois by the closing of the four other state museums housed in the Department of Natural Resources.

The Illinois State Museum has successful partnerships promoting area businesses and organizations, which will be hurt by an indefinite closure.

The social cost to closing the museum is harder to tabulate but is nonetheless damaging. The museum houses and preserves important artifacts from Illinois' past. As a preservation location for our State's heritage and history, it serves an important educational role for students across the state and is a destination for schools visiting Springfield.

Beyond just the proposed closure by Governor Rauner, an indefinite shutdown also jeopardizes the museum's academic research, and it could result in the loss of the museum's accreditation. This would not only hurt its reputation but also prevent the museum from receiving future grant money from the private sector and other sources.

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SenatorAndyManar.com

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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Emily McAsey

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 85TH DISTRICT

July 13, 2015

Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
Attn: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission Members,

As you consider the closure of the Illinois State Museum, I am contacting you to express my opposition to this plan, especially the proposed closure of the Lockport Gallery.

The Lockport Gallery is an integral part of the museum campus in historic downtown Lockport and is an invaluable cultural resource to our community. The Lockport Gallery has a positive economic and cultural impact on the Lockport community that greatly outweighs the cost savings that would be realized by shutting the doors. The closure of all six facilities within the State Museum system is estimated to save \$4.8 million dollars, but cause a loss of \$33 million dollars in revenue statewide, \$16 million of which would be realized outside Springfield.

The Lockport Gallery generates significant, positive economic effects on the historic downtown Lockport area. Closure of the gallery would have a significant negative impact to the Lockport community as well as the state as a whole. Visitors to the museum patronize local restaurants and shops. In 2014, the total cost to operate the Lockport Gallery was \$190,744. The Lockport Gallery has two professional staff members. Their salaries and benefits cost the State \$130,801 in 2014. Recently, the gallery's landlord negotiated significantly reduced rent for the space creating additional financial savings for the State. The economic benefits to the state and local community exceed the Gallery's operational costs.

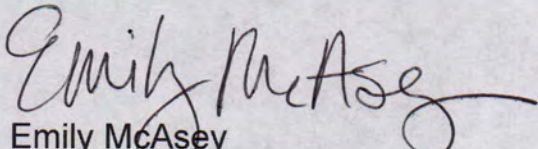
The gallery is also an important cultural resource offering unparalleled experiences to people of all ages including school children. In 2014, 1,328 local students' educations were enhanced through participation in a field trip to the Gallery. When I taught middle school, I organized a field trip to the Gallery for my students to view African Art that surpassed the offerings even of many remarkable institutions located in Chicago. The opportunity to tour the gallery and receive instruction from the museum's professional staff greatly enriched our classroom's inquiry into World Geography, providing my students with an authentic learning experience in their home communities.

In addition to being a resource for educators and students, the Gallery serves the broader population. In 2014, there were 14,000 visitors to the Gallery, 1,600 during the summer art series alone. An additional 11,000 people visited the Summer Art Series sculpture installation in the adjacent Illinois & Michigan Canal. The Gallery draws artists and art enthusiasts to the Lockport community. It is key to the City of Lockport's growth as an Art Center. Closure of the gallery would be detrimental.

Significant improvements and investments to the area surrounding the Gallery have been made as a result of its location in Lockport. The city recently repaved the public parking lot in front of the Gallery and partnered with a private developer to improve an abandoned property adjacent to the space. Weeks ago a new restaurant, banquet facility, and office space opened steps from the Gallery. Other developers are interested in making new investments in downtown Lockport, but if the Gallery closes, they likely will not continue with their plans, resulting in a great loss of future revenue to both the city and state.

There are countless reasons to keep the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery operational. The decision to close the Gallery is short-sighted and will have an appreciable negative impact on state and local finances and educational and cultural opportunities for community members and local school children.

Sincerely,



Emily McAsey
State Representative, 85th District



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

July 8, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

This written testimony regards the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) system. The Department of the Interior is strongly opposed to the proposed closure of the premier research museum for the Midwest region of the United States. It is a leader in research on the archaeology, paleontology, and biological diversity of Illinois, Missouri, and other nearby states, along with the critical management of the museum collections related to the sites and localities investigated by Museum staff. Further, ISM meets the highest museum standards through its long-standing accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums and has served as a model for many other state and regional museums.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Park Service (NPS), among several other bureaus and offices. Collectively, the DOI is responsible for managing, preserving, and accounting for one of the largest collections of museum objects in the world. The DOI collection is estimated to consist of over 194 million artifacts, specimens, and documents from the disciplines of archeology, archives, art, biology, ethnography, geology, history, and paleontology. All of these objects are held in trust for the American people in thousands of facilities across the country. One of DOI's trusted partners in collections management and research is the Illinois State Museum.

The DOI is opposed to the proposed closure of the ISM system for three primary reasons. We are concerned about the future care and preservation of collections that the ISM provides for several FWS National Wildlife Refuges and NPS national park units. ISM currently curates archaeological collections from 63 archaeological sites recovered from a number of FWS refuges in the Midwest, which amount to approximately 17,000 objects and an additional 28 boxes of artifacts. For the National Park Service, ISM curates several objects from the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Members of the ISM paleontology staff have been long-standing partners of Mammoth Cave National Park and have conducted all of the major surveys for fossils within the cave for the park. This has resulted in numerous discoveries of significant fossils, primarily large numbers of small animals such as bats and rodents that are housed in the ISM Geology Department. Notably, because there are many of these small specimens, the ISM staffs are still inventorying and cataloging the specimens for the park and have already filled about half of a standard geology cabinet. Given these data, we are very troubled by the prospect of how the FWS and NPS collections will be cared for if the ISM is closed. For example, Mammoth Cave National Park does not have a paleontologist on staff to continue the ongoing documentation of the fossil resources in the cave or to work with the park curator on the curation of these fossils. The closing of the ISM will not only be devastating to their long-standing partnership, but will require the park to find another repository in the region to which it can transfer the fossils from ISM.

Since FWS does not have a repository to house its archaeological collections in the region, this will be a similar scenario for that bureau. It will be a major challenge for our bureaus to find one or more repositories with a reputation of excellence as enjoyed by the ISM.

DOI is opposed to the ISM closure because ISM is a well-renowned research museum. It provides baseline research data and collections that are critical to the management and interpretation, particularly of archaeological and paleontological resources, in a number of NPS park units and FWS refuges in the Midwest region. As mentioned above, ISM paleontological staffs have provided essential on-site research at Mammoth Cave upon which the park resource managers rely heavily.

DOI is opposed to the ISM closure due to our concern about compliance with Federal statutes, particularly the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). ISM houses some NAGPRA-related cultural items from six archaeological sites located on FWS refuge lands, including a minimum number of 21 sets of human remains. We are concerned about the future disposition of the DOI NAGPRA-related items.

We also very concerned about the financial repercussions of the proposed closure of ISM based on the State-wide financial shortfall. There will be a number of significant costs associated with the closure that should be considered. These include, but are not limited to, the costs to retrieve and disperse the many loans of objects between ISM and other museums across the United States; the return of many significant research grants that ISM staff have been honored to receive; the costs of moving collections currently housed for other entities such as DOI; the costs of repatriation; and the costs of legal claims that might be pursued against the State.

In closing, we strongly urge the Commission to reject the proposal to close the ISM. We look forward to working with ISM to strengthen the partnership between ISM and the Department of the Interior.

Sincerely,



Debra E. Sonderman
Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management

Information required by the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

Name: Debra E. Sonderman

Facility being closed: Illinois State Museum system

Position: Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management, U.S. Department of the Interior

Type of testimony: Written Statement Filed

Email for confirmation: Debra_Sonderman@ios.doi.gov



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
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Dana N. Bardolph
Department of Anthropology
University of California, Santa Barbara 93106-3210

July 22, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure

703 Stratton Building

Springfield, Illinois 62706

RE: Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum

Dear Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability:

I am writing to respectfully submit my strong opposition of the closure of the Illinois State Museum and its associated facilities by Governor Rauner. I am a graduate student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and I have benefited immensely from access to its collections and potential for research. Collections curated at the Illinois State Museum served as the basis for my Master's thesis, my first academic article in a major research journal, and my winning of an academic student paper competition, all of which has been fundamental to furthering my career as an academic archaeologist. The countless potential for research by future students will be lost if the museum is indeed closed. Not only has the museum forged a path for scholarly productivity for myself (and indeed many of my fellow graduate student colleagues and academic advisors), its collections represent an opportunity for the curation and study of an archaeological record that encompasses the deep, rich history of Illinois, from ancient to more recent historic time periods.

As a native Californian, I was not exposed to this rich archaeological and historical information until I reached graduate school. The tremendous achievements of the pre-Columbian inhabitants of Illinois, along with the greater Southeast and Midwest, are often overlooked in academic curricula and unbeknownst to the general public. If facilities like the Illinois State Museum are closed that problem only becomes bigger. The museum represents an irreplaceable repository of the state's historical and cultural resources. The value of archaeology, for scientific research purposes along with the education of the general public, will be lost if the decision to close the museum is not reversed.

With those thoughts in mind, I strongly urge Governor Rauner to reverse the decision to close the Illinois State Museum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Bardolph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "h".

Dana Bardolph

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Anthropology

University of California, Santa Barbara 93106-3210



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-3210

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Matthew E. Biber
Department of Anthropology
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara CA 93106-3210

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability ATTN: Facility Closure 703
Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum

Dear Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Governor Rainer's plan to close the Illinois State Museum and its satellite museums and facilities across the state. As a graduate student of archaeology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, I have directly benefited from the Illinois State Museum in my own research. The staff at the Dickson Mounds Museum in Fulton County, Illinois in particular has been vital to my graduate research in archeology in the state. I would be extremely disappointed if the museum system were to close, as future research would be extremely negatively affected by this decision. I hope you will reconsider closing the Illinois State Museum so that future generations of scholars and citizens can benefit from the wonderful research made possible with the help of these facilities.

Sincerely,

Matthew E. Biber
PhD Candidate
University of California, Santa Barbara
mbiber@umail.ucsb.edu

Name: Kara Fedje
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum
Your Position: Opponent
The type of Testimony you would like to give: Written Statement

Dear Commissioners,

I urge you not to close the Illinois State Museum. The Illinois State Museum's value is inconceivable and unmeasurable.

- We are an institution that is 138 years old. The Museum was funded in 1877.
- We are six locations throughout Illinois (Main Museum in Springfield, Research and Collections Center, Dixon Mounds Museum, Lockport, Rend Lake, and the Chicago-Thompson Center)
- We are an accredited museum through the American Alliance for Museums (This is a process that requires 3 years to attain and only 5% of Museums achieve this status)
- Over 40,000 school children and 2,300 teachers visit the Illinois State Museum each year.
- Our collections consist of 13 million objects and are maintained by professional world class curators.
- The Illinois State Museum System across the state of Illinois attracts \$33-\$36 million in tourism dollars and \$17-\$18 million for the Springfield area
- We uphold the best practices for museum like making sure Illinois is legal in following NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act)

It's hard to imagine what Springfield and the rest of Illinois would be like without the Illinois State Museum system. We have sites across the state. We can't afford to lose our museum, our culture, our heritage. And, I'm sure you are in agreement that we need to protect the museum, its collections, its educational programs for many generations ahead. We don't want Illinois to set the new standard of closing museums. Museums don't close for a reason. This one has remained open for over 138 years because of the educational, cultural, and economic value for our communities and our state. Thanks to the vast catalog of online collections, we actually serve as a resource to scientists and researchers across the world as well.

Personally, I have had the privilege of wearing many hats with the non-profit group, the Illinois State Museum Society. In 2004, I was the Monticello Intern and in 2014 became the Mary Ann MacLean Educator. Like several employees, my salary does not come from the State of Illinois. Because I am an endowed educator, I am able to do a variety of things for the Illinois State Museum. I coordinate volunteers for the Play Museum, developed and continue to coordinate a highly successful science and art program called Satur-Play, and most recently taught summer camp to over 60 children in June.

The staff at the Museum, who work for the Society or the State, work for the public's interest. A percentage of our staff are paid through grants, contracts, or endowments. In fact, we have 3 outstanding National Science Foundation grants and several other small grants like the Teen Science Café. Without these grants our projects wouldn't exist. Many of our curators, educators, and researchers are committed to the Museum and have worked most of their lives to produce successful results.

All of this would be in jeopardy if the Museum were to close. A few people may think of the Museum as just a repository for collections, others may see us as just a rainy Sunday afternoon outing for the family. The Illinois State Museum is all of that and so much more. We educate the public, preserve the collection, and provide cutting edge research in science, history, and art. The impact of this Museum is difficult to measure but remains immense.

In the past year at the Illinois State Museum,, I have had the opportunity to do the following:

- Engage in the national momentum of STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) by doing an engineering challenges with teenagers.
- Provide student day long, week long summer camp.
- Provide a hands-on program called Satur-Play, our free art and science Saturday program that had over 7,000 participants in its first year.
- Create stimulating science activities such as stomp rockets and art projects for the local Boys and Girls Club.
- Engage with high school students in teaching hands-on activities for children and their families.
- Work with technology like the Museum's Smart Board to create one of a kind artwork.

Recently, my sister had a baby and in the future, I want to be able to take my niece to the Play Museum and provide an opportunity for her to dig in the dig pit, look at insects under a video microscope, and have a chance to drive the little red jeep. I also want other Springfield children who may not have \$12 to have an exciting and safe place to learn while playing. This experience will help lead the next generation. We can't afford to lose our museum, our culture, our heritage!

Thank you for your support of the Illinois State Museum.

Sincerely,

Kara Fedje



Bryan Arnold, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
1101 West College Avenue
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650-2212
217.245.3445 | www.ic.edu

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum
Position: Opposed

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum. As a faculty advisor for many students who have completed internships at the museum, I know firsthand how transformative these experiences have been for them as they build skills and knowledge that would not be available through any other means. While at the museum, they not only gain hands-on experience with the collections - learning how to identify and catalogue specimens, make replica models using 3D printing, document specimens using detailed images suitable for an online database etc. but they also conduct important research with leading experts in their fields utilizing resources and collections unique to the museum. At a time when our country is falling behind in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math) experiential learning opportunities like those provided by the museum are critical and we must support the institutions that make these opportunities a reality.

Closing the museum is NOT the answer to the financial issues of the state and I urge you to vote to keep the museum open.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryan Arnold
Assistant Professor of Biology
Illinois College



Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure

703 Stratton Building

Springfield, IL 62706

July 22, 2015

Co-Chair Senator Donne Trotter, Co-Chair Representative Donald Moffitt, and members of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today. My name is Laura L. Lott, President and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), and I urge you to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

AAM proudly represents the full range of our nation's museums—including art museums, historic sites, natural history museums, children's museums, presidential libraries, science and technology centers, and zoos, among other institutions—along with the professional staff and volunteers who work for and with museums. We work on behalf of the nation's museums, which invest more than \$2 billion annually on educational programs and receive more than 55 million visits each year from primary and secondary school students.

Not only do museums provide spaces for education and research and cultural preservation, they also serve as economic engines in communities around the nation. Museums bolster our communities' economic infrastructure: They directly contribute \$21 billion to their local economies, employ 400,000 people from those communities, and spur tourism. Both the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Governors Association agree that assets such as museums are essential to attracting businesses, a skilled workforce, and local and international tourism.

That is the point I want to emphasize with you today: Museums—including those that comprise the ISM System—are a vital part of Illinois' economy. Closing the ISM System could extinguish this source of vitality.

I appreciate the very difficult decisions before the Commission. The choices you must make are not easy. But the state will not find the significant cost savings it seeks by shuttering the ISM System.

First, the proposed closure would cost the state resources it can ill-afford to lose. More than \$30 million is spent in Illinois communities by ISM visitors—local, state and national—with about \$18 million spent in Springfield alone. Additionally, the System employs close to 70 people from within the communities it serves. Given the revenue that the museum system spurs, closing the system would burden local economies and risk harming local businesses.

That the museum system is so vital to Illinois' economy and the communities it serves should come as no surprise because the ISM System is well-managed and operates with distinction. For more than 40 years, this Illinois gem has served as a national model by meeting the highest standards of the museum field. The ISM System has earned and maintained accreditation—a mark held by only three percent of institutions nationwide. Accreditation increases a museum's credibility and value to funders, insurers, and the community, while also facilitating collections loans between institutions. Adherence to these standards is assessed by an Accreditation Commission, comprised of museum professionals nominated by the field and charged with making independent decisions regarding accredited status.

On July 9th, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) responded to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability regarding concerns about the museum losing its accreditation if it does not remain open to the public. While DNR correctly noted that accreditation must be renewed every 10 years, it failed to indicate that museums can lose their accreditation at any time if they are found by the Accreditation Commission to be in violation of the standards set by the museum field or the program's minimum eligibility criteria. Though this is not a regular occurrence, an institution did lose accreditation this way under different circumstances just last year. Risking the ISM System's accreditation by shutting its doors is an unnecessary gamble with this prestigious achievement.

In addition to foregone revenues, closing the ISM System will incur significant costs at a time when the state needs to maximize its resources. Closing a museum is not a simple matter of packing and shipping the state's treasures to some far off place, turning off the lights and shutting the door behind the last person out; it is a burdensome and expensive process.

Furthermore, Illinois risks defaulting on grants, contracts, and loans, which could open the state to potential lawsuits from federal agencies and private donors.

On top of these very concrete losses, closing the ISM System would cause other incalculable and devastating costs to the state of Illinois that it cannot afford. The state risks destroying its well-regarded museum system and in so doing, would lose its top notch researchers and historians. It would miss the opportunity to educate and inspire the 40,000 schoolchildren who visit every year. Most of all, closing the ISM System risks reneging on Illinois' 138-year charge to protect its cultural and natural heritage for its citizens.

Again, I respect the fact that lawmakers have difficult decisions to make regarding the state budget. While concerns regarding the budget shortfall must be addressed, closing the ISM System to attempt to find cost savings is not the answer. The purported cost savings will not accrue to the state and could, in fact, cost the state revenues. Closing the ISM System is at best a dubious short term gain, and would certainly be a devastating long term loss to the local communities and people it serves.

Let's not leave the state open to potentially increased costs and lawsuits by shutting down this indispensable museum system. Let's not close the doors on the 387,000 tourists, researchers and children that visit the ISM System from around the state, and around our country.

Instead, let's keep the promise made to Illinoisans in 1877 to safeguard our cultural and natural heritage. Let's maintain the integrity of a proven economic development engine for our communities. Let's keep intact the heart and soul of our communities, keeping it strong and vibrant for another 138 years.

It is my hope that my testimony makes clear why the ISM System is vital to Illinois' past, present, and future; how it provides a significant return on investment to Illinois' taxpayers; and what adverse economic effects could occur if this system ceases to exist. Our communities are counting on you to do the right thing on behalf of a vital 138-year institution. I urge you to recommend against closing the Illinois State Museum System. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Laura L Lott
President and CEO

June 29, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, I urge the state to reconsider the closure of the Illinois State Museum.

As a repository of natural history and cultural resources, the Illinois State Museum is part of a larger network of scientific collections. Scientific collections are a vital component of our nation's research infrastructure. These scientific resources contain genetic, tissue, organismal, and environmental samples that constitute a unique and irreplaceable library of the Earth's history. The specimens and their associated data drive cutting edge research on significant challenges facing modern society, such as improving human health, enhancing food security, and understanding and responding to environmental change. Collections inspire novel interdisciplinary research, as well as formal and informal science education. Museum collections, like those of the Illinois State Museum, drive innovation and inspire our next generation of scientists and the development of technically skilled workers.

The closure of the state museum will prevent researchers, educators, students, and the public from accessing more than 12.5 million items. These are irreplaceable resources documenting the natural and cultural history of Illinois. The closure of this important resource will have long-term negative impacts on the people and economy of the state of Illinois.

I encourage the Commission to sustain the funding necessary to maintain the operations of the Illinois State Museum.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at rgropp@aibs.org or (202)-628-1500 x 250 if you have any questions or if we may provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Robert Gropp, Ph.D.
Interim Co-Executive Director



St. Croix Watershed Research Station

16910—152nd Street North, Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
tel. (651) 433-5953 fax (651) 433-5924 www.smm.org

1 July 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

My name: James E. Almendinger, Ph.D.
Facility being closed: Illinois State Museum
My position: Opponent -- do not close.
Email: jalmendinger@smm.org

Dear commission members:

I am writing to urge you to NOT close the Illinois State Museum. It is an internationally recognized institution that has provided great service to the citizens of Illinois, the nation, and the entire scientific community.

The employees make only modest salaries relative to their education and experience, and yet perform with great productivity in identifying how our natural world functions in the face of stresses imposed by land-use and climate change. Museum staff members are actively engaged in cutting-edge research, far beyond simply curating the collections housed in the Museum.

Science drives nearly all of our nation's activities and productivity. All advances in technology derive from scientific research. Cutting the funding for scientific research is a case of being penny-wise but pound-foolish. We need more research, not less. Scientific research is what reshaped our country in the post-WWII era into the leading world power that it is today.

Please, do not close the Illinois State Museum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Almendinger".

James E. Almendinger
Senior Scientist



CENTER FOR AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY

June 25, 2015

Mr. Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

We are writing as President (Buikstra) and Research Director (King) of the Center for American Archeology (CAA), a 501(c)3 organization incorporated in Illinois during 1953 and dedicated continuously from that time to archaeological research, education, and outreach. We have a long history of innovative and distinguished archaeological research and education that has brought distinction to our state. This was recognized on August 25, 1973, when then Governor of Illinois, Dan Walker, issued an Executive Department Proclamation commending the CAA for its contributions to deep time knowledge of Illinois' past, then centered in the famous Koster site excavations. A more recent signal of our national reputation is the 2009 Award for Excellence in Public Education, presented by the Society for American Archaeology. CAA programs draw students and scholars from across the globe to Illinois.

We are deeply concerned about your plans to close the Illinois State Museum (ISM). The collections, the scholars, and other staff have created an institution that is a nationally and internationally recognized leader in the study of changing landscapes, climate, and the human presence in Illinois and elsewhere. The education and outreach efforts by the museum annually reach thousands of students of all ages.

We are particularly troubled that your plans to close the ISM will violate a legal document, a Memorandum of Understanding between the CAA and the ISM that specified the transfer of CAA archaeological records and related documentation to the ISM. Funded by a prestigious, federal *Save America's Treasures* grant, the CAA has transferred over 9500 boxes of systematic regional collections to the ISM. The ISM-CAA agreement, dated 1-31-2005 and signed by then ISM Director, Dr. R. Bruce McMillan, specifies that,

"The Illinois State Museum has agreed to accept and accession these collections, provide for their long-term curation and management in accordance with federal and state laws and following national

standards, and make them accessible for scholarly and educational purposes according to its established collection policies.”

Such obligations as these require professional curation of the Center for American Archeology Collections, housed at the ISM. These systematic and sometimes fragile materials must also be accessible to researchers. We require that meeting these obligations be part of any plans by the State of Illinois that potentially changes the status of the ISM. Our agreement states that we are to be notified of any such plans no less than 45 days before any changes are to be effected.

As part of the ongoing CAA-ISM collaboration, the ISM is partner to a three-year (2015-2018) National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates grant with CAA and the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC). This unique program provides (STEM) research experiences for students during a formative period of their undergraduate education. The ISM, its facilities, research staff, and CAA collections housed at ISM play a significant role in the execution of this program. Closure of the ISM would violate the terms of the federal grant and the CAA-ISM Memorandum of Understanding.

We raise these issues because we believe them to be a critical part of your ongoing budgetary planning. We anticipate timely notification from your office concerning the future of the Illinois State Museum.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane E. Buikstra', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jane E. Buikstra, PhD, DSc, RPA, NAS, DABFA
President, Center for American Archeology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason King', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason King
Director of Research, Center for American Archeology

Cc: Charles Theivagt,
Gustine & Theivagt, Ltd.



GEORGE B. RABB, Ph.D.
President Emeritus, Chicago Zoological Society
9236 Broadway Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513
Telephone: (708) 387-0269 Fax: (708) 387-7643
Email: georgerabb@sbcglobal.net

24 June 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
facilityclosure@ilga.gov

To whom it may concern:

The closure of the Illinois State Museum facilities to the public and to its staff would be a tragic mistake by responsible governance. I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to countermand the directive from the Governor through the Department of Natural Resources to effect such a closure.

As noted in the letter of June 17 to Governor Rauner from the Illinois State Museum Board of Directors, closure is a negative in economic terms, but also in terms of depriving citizens and their children of knowledge of the cultural and natural history heritage of Illinois. Further, the letter indicates likely forthcoming penalties from federal granting sources and regulating bodies concerned with Indian cultural heritages. Finally, the letter points to likely consequences already in loss of highly qualified staff who have been generating knowledge about our cultural and natural history heritages on the basis of the Illinois State Museum collections of 13.5 million objects and specimens.

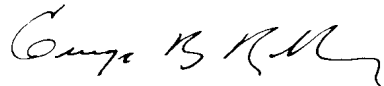
I write as a current member and past chair of the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Museum. My own professional career was in the living museum context of the Chicago Zoological Park, popularly known as Brookfield Zoo, where I was Director from 1976 to 2003. My training, professional development, and early productivity were in traditional museum circumstances, starting in childhood with the oldest such institution in America in Charleston, South Carolina. My graduate education was at the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, and my research studies have been with the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and the Field Museum in Chicago.

I have in preparation an article on The Future of Museums. The focus of this essay is on the value that these institutions have as object-based sources of knowledge of the cultures and natural histories of various places, from local communities to the planet as a whole. Museum collections provide the cues for our collective social memories and thus inform our estimations and imaginations of the future of these places. I argue finally that in acknowledgement of our interdependence with all life and of the vital need for sustainable

relations with our planetary home, we need to vigorously conserve the biological and cultural diversity that our museums harbor in their collections and exhibit for the public.

From such reflections, and my own direct knowledge, I again affirm strongly that the Illinois State Museum is a substantial asset of the state's citizenry which should not be damaged in wrangling over the state's budget by the current leaders in the Governor's office and the General Assembly. I am most concerned that such damage is already occurring as the very qualified staff consider their futures. Please stop the closure of the Illinois State Museum!

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George B. Rabb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

George B. Rabb

June 30, 2015

To:
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

From:
Richard W. Lariviere
President and CEO

Museums of the quality of the Illinois State Museum are rare and valuable. I understand—very well—the fiscal challenges with which you are dealing. Please don't close the Illinois State Museum. It is an important institution and deserves to continue to serve the State.

Aside from the hundreds of thousands of annual visitors each year, the Illinois State Museum holds irreplaceable collections that continue to inform us of the history and evolution of the land, its flora and fauna, and the people of Illinois. There are measures of economy that are repairable and some that are not. The collections of the Museum require sophisticated maintenance. Not providing that maintenance will cause lasting and irreparable harm.

Please keep the Museum open and preserve the history of Illinois.

Sincerely



Richard W. Lariviere, Ph.D.



Robert Blue P.O. Box 72 Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Phone#: 815-923-2529 Email: blueagle@mc.net

blueeaglepottery.com

June 27, 2015

Dear Governor & Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

I would like to express my appreciation for your cutting my ability to sell my products in the State of Illinois. Over the last few weeks I have been scrambling to collect my products from the gift shops and galleries of the Museums within Illinois. You have now completely cut off all my source of revenue for ceramic arts sales in my state. I will no longer be paying you taxes on sales or income within the state. Not because I don't want to, but because you cut off my ability to sell in my state. What a generous move you just made. I am truly dismayed at your tactics.

You not only cut off my income as an artist working in Illinois, but you also fired hundreds of workers showing great exhibitions within the Museums around the State. You closed Rend Lake Gallery and Museum, my best selling gallery in the nation. You closed the Galleries at the Thompson Center in Chicago, the Springfield Museum on Spring street, Dixon Mounds, the Lockport Museum, and more likely others I don't know about. Hundreds of jobs lost, Income gone, families now going hungry, The reputation of "CULTURE" in the state of Illinois in a position of ruin. Children no longer able to see the wonders of Illinois, the arts of its citizens, the educational programs conducted by the now closed institutions. All because the Governor is either too stupid or too stubborn to work with the legislature on a budget compromise. "My way or I will destroy the State" says Mr. Rauner. No more money for roads, bridges, culture, parks, recreation, and other non life threatening programs, "lay them off lay them all off;" I got mine, good luck getting yours. "Not on my watch" he says. We don't want tourism in Illinois. Send those other dollars elsewhere!!!!

All this suffering because you won't raise taxes to make summer fun, exciting, or interesting for the rest of us! I would be willing to have my income taxes raised ½ to 1 percent, and even my sales tax to go up to save our jobs, our livelihood, our dignity. Sure we need to cut the increases and even the wasteful spending when you find it. But don't cut jobs and infrastructure improvements to do it. Closing museums will cost **30 million dollars** in State revenue, delaying infrastructure will cost productivity, jobs and profits due to repairs to business equipment. Can't you see you are wasting more money with this approach than is being saved. I am not an economist and I see it. I guess this state elected a businessman as Governor, a idealog not a human being. We now get what we asked for – pain and suffering; we certainly cannot expect jobs, they are being slashed as fast as possible.

Five productive steps forward to help balance the budget: 1. Reinstate income tax "raise" to 4 ½ % and have it all go toward pension deficite, 2. Charge State Income tax to all retirees, no exceptions, 3. Discontinue franking priviledges to elected polititions, 4. No increases in budgetary spending for two years, 5. Fire your own staff before the common museum, parks and road workers and write your own damn letters.

I know the Govenor won't get this letter and now I will be looking in my rear view mirror for all sorts of retaliation. That's what bullies do and I will have to ask God for the strength to bare it.

Very very sad with your approach,

Robert Blue



English Department
Illinois College
1101 West College Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650
217.245.3456
ccochran@ic.edu

Mail:
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

facilityclosure@ilga.gov

Dear Governor Rauner and Commission Members:

The budget legislation offered by Governor Rauner and now being considered includes many reprehensible clauses that will damage Illinois and its people. Among the most illogical and of long-term consequence is the suggestion that Illinois shut down five museums in Illinois.

For a governor who claims to put education as the top priority, Rauner is defeating himself by suggesting we close a top educational facility. The Illinois State Museum has world-class exhibits and has been the site of thousands of classroom visits and hundreds of college internships. As a professor supervising some past internships, I have witnessed first-hand the effects of some of these internships on students' learning and career success.

Closing the museums is a waste of tax-payer money. We know that as a state we need a state museum and that sooner rather than later people would demand we re-open. One huge problem is that the legislation, if passed, would close the facility permanently. Given the delicacy of the operation of closing not only exhibits but research dating back over a hundred years, this decision would be irreversible. It would be impossible to save the research in a way that would make possible the re-opening of all the facilities even though some could be recovered.

Let's NOT close the Illinois State Museums.

I would like to confirm that you have received this letter. The best email address for me is ccochran@mail.ic.edu.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Cochran

Cynthia A. Cochran
Associate Professor, English
Chair, Education
Director, Campus Writing Center

Autumn Beyer

4835 Countryway East #305 • Okemos, MI 48864



Date: 25 June 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

I am one of countless graduate students who utilize the Illinois State Museum and its collection center for research. I received my Masters Degree from Illinois State University this May in Archaeology. It would not have been possible to complete my research without the Illinois State Museum Research and Collection Center (ISM-RCC) and its employees, specifically Dr. Terrance Martin. In fact, I have specifically chosen to continue my graduate education at Michigan State University this fall in order to resume work with Dr. Martin, the Illinois State Museum, and the osteological comparison collections housed in the ISM-RCC. If the Illinois State Museum is closed, current research in numerous fields will come to a screeching halt.

Not only does the Illinois State Museum maintain collections for both the arts and sciences, it is involved in continuing research, protecting cultural resources, and expanding knowledge in dozens of fields. Current archaeological excavations run through the ISM are not only important for the researchers conducting the studies but for community outreach and education. Both the Morton Village excavation and the Lincoln Home excavation encourage the public to visit and interact with the researchers, students, and volunteers working at the sites.

The purpose of this letter is to inform on the importance of the Illinois State Museum, and the NEED for it to remain open and accessible to the public and researchers.

Sincerely,

Autumn Beyer
Michigan State University, Ph.D. Candidate
Illinois State University, M.S. Archaeology



NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE

1444 I STREET NW SUITE 200 WASHINGTON, DC 20005 TEL: 202 628 1500 WWW.NSCALLIANCE.ORG

June 25, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write to express the deep concern of the natural science collections community about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum. We recognize that budget conditions in the state of Illinois are difficult; however, the closure of the museum system threatens the long-term preservation of scientific and cultural resources entrusted to the State Museum, including those that have received and are eligible to continue to receive federal support.

The Natural Science Collections Alliance strongly encourages you to reconsider how the museum system might stay open. The anticipated savings of \$4.8 million pales in comparison to the \$33 million spent annually in Illinois by visitors to the museum. Moreover, the Illinois State Museum is a repository for more than 12.5 million items that document the natural and cultural history of Illinois. These collections are an irreplaceable resource for scientific research and education.

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is a non-profit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. Our membership consists of institutions which are part of an international community of museums, botanical gardens, herbaria, universities, and other institutions that contain natural science collections and use them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

We hope that we can work with the state government to find ways to keep the Illinois State Museum System open and keep it fully operational for the benefit of the citizens of Illinois and beyond.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me at lp@flmnh.ufl.edu, or contact NSC Alliance Director of Public Policy Dr. Robert Gropp at rgropp@aibs.org or 202-628-1500 x 250 if you have any questions or if we may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Page".

Larry Page, Ph.D.
President



The Sawmill Museum

2231 Grant Street • P.O. Box 3191 • Clinton, Iowa 52732-3191

June 30, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Commission,

On behalf of The Sawmill Museum in Clinton, Iowa, I provide this written statement on the behalf of the Illinois State Museum system. While my museum is in Iowa, I border Fulton, Illinois, and I'm on the advisory board of the Illinois State Historical Society. For the first 25 years on the planet, I called Springfield home. Before I moved, I called downtown home. My first job out of college was at the National Museum of Surveying and the Springfield Illinois African-American Museum. I graduated from the University of Illinois at Springfield and had many friends who went through the public history program. The committees and the organizations I was involved with in Springfield on a volunteer basis were also quite intensive.

I mention all of these organizations and places because at all of them, the Illinois State Museum was a vital partner. While the Illinois State Historical Society and Illinois Association of Museums both drive home the economic impact, the cultural value, and the preservation power of the Illinois State Museum in their letters, my plea focuses on the ripple effect of such a powerful state institution. Throughout the state, museums, historic homes, historical societies, teachers, genealogists, and more rely on the collections and expertise of the Illinois State Museum. The accreditation from AAM serves as both "city on the hill" for other museums and allows for a certain power on its own.

Closing the State Museum yes will rob all that you have read, but I know for quite a few of those organizations, new exhibits, preservation of artifacts and other history, and more would never have occurred without the help of the institution in a formal or informal nature. We are all a community in the museum world, and we all rely on each other. Many in Illinois will not just lose a friend but lose the wise grandfather to guide us through our own formative years. I urge the Commission to keep the State Museum open.

Sincerely,

Matthew Parbs

563.242.0343



Robert Blue P.O. Box 72 Woodstock, Illinois 60098
Phone#: 815-923-2529 Email: blueagle@mc.net
blueaglepottery.com

June 27, 2015

Dear Governor & Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

I would like to express my appreciation for your cutting my ability to sell my products in the State of Illinois. Over the last few weeks I have been scrambling to collect my products from the gift shops and galleries of the Museums within Illinois. You have now completely cut off all my source of revenue for ceramic arts sales in my state. I will no longer be paying you taxes on sales or income within the state. Not because I don't want to, but because you cut off my ability to sell in my state. What a generous move you just made. I am truly dismayed at your tactics.

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All this suffering because you won't raise taxes to make summer fun, exciting, or interesting for the rest of us! I would be willing to have my income taxes raised $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 percent, and even my sales tax to go up to save our jobs, our livelihood, our dignity. Sure we need to cut the increases and even the wasteful spending when you find it. But don't cut jobs and infrastructure improvements to do it. Closing museums will cost **30 million dollars** in State revenue, delaying infrastructure will cost productivity, jobs and profits due to repairs to business equipment. Can't you see you are wasting more money with this approach than is being saved. I am not an economist and I see it. I guess this state elected a businessman as Governor, a idealog not a human being. We now get what we asked for – pain and suffering; we certainly cannot expect jobs, they are being slashed as fast as possible.

Five productive steps forward to help balance the budget: 1. Reinstate income tax "raise" to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % and have it all go toward pension deficite, 2. Charge State Income tax to all retirees, no exceptions, 3. Discontinue franking priviledges to elected polititions, 4. No increases in budgetary spending for two years, 5. Fire your own staff before the common museum, parks and road workers and write your own damn letters.

I know the Govenor won't get this letter and now I will be looking in my rear view mirror for all sorts of retaliation. That's what bullies do and I will have to ask God for the strength to bare it.

Very very sad with your approach,

Robert Blue



24 June 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Name: Joe B. Keiper, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Virginia Museum of Natural History
Secretary/Treasurer, Association of Science Museum Directors
Board member, Virginia Association of Museums

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum

To whom it may concern,

I write to support the continued full scale operation of the Illinois State Museum. Museums are often targeted as easy items to slash as they are sometimes misconceived as “nice to have,” when indeed they are a “need to have” part of our society. The acknowledged \$17 million in tourism spending generated by the Illinois state museum is more than triple the proposed \$4.8 million the state will save with the mothballing of the science and public programming. People spend \$17 million because of the quality programming, quality experiences, and quality of life afforded by the museums. There will be no assemblage of programs and experiences that will substitute for the closures, and people will spend their dollars elsewhere. From that economic perspective alone, the Illinois State Museum is a “need to have” component of the Springfield community and beyond.

Museums connect people to science, art, and history through the real specimens, artifacts, and objects that they care for. The Illinois State Museum and its branches do this well, and provides intellectual benefits to society that cannot be substituted.

The state took on a huge responsibility in 1877 to devote space and resources to the natural, historic, and cultural treasures of Illinois. They are held in trust for all citizens of Illinois and indeed all citizens of the world. Providing funds for a skeletal crew only will endanger their well-being, make them unavailable to research and educational efforts, and will actually develop a downstream cost disadvantage to our society. The latter is explained by the need for scientists throughout the US to spend funds to collect specimens and artifacts that could be much more easily studied in Springfield. This will create a widespread cost that other museums, as well as university researchers, will ultimately have to cover.

We all have to face cuts to do our part for a state budget. It is my opinion that not only will Illinois lose access to its treasures, but that in the longer term financial benefits will also be lost.

At a minimum, the curators, researchers, and collections administrators need to remain on staff, as well as maintenance. It will be difficult to keep the museum relevant without an exhibits staff. Although budget cuts are disadvantageous for excellence and relevance, they can be survived. The closure is a cost that cannot be endured.

If you have questions or require further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Keiper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Joe B. Keiper, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Contact CGFA for Public Comments or Testimony

To submit public comments or to register to be put on the agenda to give oral testimony, please contact:

Mail:

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

6/27/15

It is folly to dismantle schools
institutions that
educate, inspire,
& teach. There is

Or

Email:

facilityclosure@ilga.gov

Please include:

Name:

Facility Being Closed:

Your Position: (Proponent, Opponent, or No position)

The type of Testimony you would like to give: (Oral Testimony at the hearing, Written Statement Filed, or Record of Appearance Only)

Email (if you would like confirmation):

a role for
public

If you are wanting to provide oral testimony, please include:

Your relationship to the Facility: (Employee, Client, Family of Client, Concerned Citizen, Advocate, etc.)

Organization (if applicable):

Title (if applicable):

institutions

To better ensure your name being on the agenda, **please remit your request to give oral testimony 2 business days prior to the public hearing.** Oral testimony can still be given if your name is not on the agenda. Please limit testimony to 2 minutes.

Time to

If submitting written testimony or comments via email, please send the written material:

1. as a .pdf file,
2. as a word Document, or
3. in the body of the email

RAISE taxes.

Trade
Agreement



Eli Goodman, M.D. & D.J.
progressnote@aol.com
217-242-7490
PMB 133 • 3309 Robbins Road
Springfield, IL 62704

June 28, 15

Dear Sir,

Please keep the
Illinois State Museum open
the number arts how
much is spent there
& in Springfield for out
reaches what would be
saved in its closure -

Beyond dollar & cent it
is so needed it is a
learning experience for me
over 50 years. There are
other ways to save like

retirement monies
spent on legislators
who are incompetent
or best rewarded
quite generously -

The directors of the
ISM has done such
a wonderful job fall
of us in the State it
would be a shame to

have her fine work gone
for naught.

Sincerely
A. L. Hunter

Salvador Dalí (1904-1989); *Surrealist Poster*; 1934;
oil on cardboard, with key; 27" x 28"

CHANGING

I'M A MEMBER 2015
OF ISM FOR SIYAS.

I'M WORKING W/ISM
REC. ON A RELIC
SITE IN CHRISTIANCO
IL. KNOWLEDGE IS
POWER. PLEASE LET
US KEEP THAT POWER.

SINCERELY,

D. J. Morris

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1 Saint James Ct # 3
Springfield, IL 62703-3884
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Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

June 26, 2015

Dear Sir, Madam,

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) is an international organization that represents natural history collection care professionals and the collections they serve to protect. As a Society, we are concerned with the care of natural history collections – well-curated collections are a critical foundation for scientific research and education. Natural history collections also house unique specimens of species that no longer exist from habitats that no longer exist.

The Society is deeply concerned over recent reports regarding the closure of the Illinois State Museum due to state budgetary considerations. We are especially concerned over the fate of the museum's collections and staff and thereby a significant reduction in accessibility to these collections for researchers.

The Illinois State Museum holds many millions of specimens and artifacts in trust, not solely for Illinois and its citizens, but for the needs and betterment of global biodiversity science. This collection houses unique materials not found in collections elsewhere and of great scientific value. In addition to maintaining 150,000 Midwestern zoological specimens, ISM protects over 200,000 paleontological specimens from Mazon Creek and other Midwestern sites including nationally significant Pleistocene mammal collections and the Boney Spring assemblage from the western Ozarks, which is the largest assemblage of American Mastodons from a single site. The ISM is a lead institution for the NSF-funded Neotoma Paleoecology Database. This international collaborative database serves the North American Pollen Database, FAUNMAP (Quaternary mammal distribution) and other datasets documenting the paleontological record in North America and elsewhere. Neotoma and its constituent databases are an important research component of species distributions, paleo-environments, and climate change.

Materials are loaned from these collections to researchers world-wide for discovery and scientific publication. A fragile and finite resource, collections require continual specialized care and upkeep. Access to specimens and data by researchers is imperative

in order to realize the scientific potential a collection holds. Curatorial staff need access to the collection to ensure that it is well maintained and well curated. Any decision to restrict access, even temporarily, greatly increases the risk of serious damage, and even permanent loss of specimens and artifacts.

The Illinois State Museum is part of a global collections network and has an enviable reputation for collections care. The museum, as part of a statewide consortium of 12 museums, libraries and archives, recently received a highly competitive Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) grant to develop educational resources and provide training in collections care.

A decision to close the collections not only affects research and puts specimens at risk, it also hinders the Museum's ability to create public exhibition and education programs that draw on them. The result is a loss in institutional prestige. Any short-term financial gain will have a long-term negative impact on the reputation of the Museum as a scientific institution. Any short term gain in revenue gained by closing the museum pales in comparison to the revenue generated by the museum through visitors and scientific endeavor.

For this reason, while we understand and sympathize with the fiscal challenges facing the Illinois State, we would urge you to implement plans that ensure that the Illinois State Museum remains open and funded.

Sincerely,



Andrew Bentley
President
Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections

Division of Ichthyology
Biodiversity Institute
University of Kansas
Dyche Hall
1345 Jayhawk Boulevard
Lawrence, KS, 66045-7561
abentley@ku.edu

Date: June 26, 2015

To: Commission of Government Forecasting and Accountability
facilityclosure@ilga.gov

From: DiAnne Crown, Springfield, Illinois

Subject: Facility Closure: Illinois State Museum

Position: Oppose closure

Testimony: Written

Reply to: DiAnne Crown, dcjs304@gmail.com

Copy to:

Commission of Government Forecasting and Accountability
Attn: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield IL 62706

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose closure of the Illinois State Museum.

Summary -- The ISM's role in Springfield, surrounding counties, and the state is crucial to the education of children and families, the preservation and conservation of valuable, irreplaceable research collections; and the ongoing research for understanding of the interrelationships of this region's natural resources.

Personal statement – My first experiences at the ISM were with my father who took me to view the impressive dioramas, study the rock collections, watch nature slide shows and movies, and much more. At that early age, I became curious about the natural world and began a lifelong love of science.

A lot has changed since my first visits 50 years ago. Interactive displays and lively teaching-and-learning special events bring science and culture to life for visitors of all ages whose pace is much more dynamic than my early days. One of those younger visitors was my son who, since his own early days at the ISM, has gone on to serve as a volunteer docent in the museum, has been mentored by first-rate museum scholars, and is currently studying environmental science at a prestigious Illinois university. There, his research will push problem-solving bounds in the areas of food health and safety, scarce water resources, and flora and fauna conservation.

Those early days and the years since in the Illinois State Museum have been life changing for our family. I'm proud and grateful to support the Museum to the greatest extent possible.

For those less experienced – For many museum visitors, the depictions of natural history, culture, art, carefully preserved animal and plant specimens, hands-on displays, and engaging, lively discovery

activities with parents, staff, and other children are rare exceptions to life spent in screen time. For these children, the museum is more than a gift – it is a lifeline to the world beyond the television and cell phone. It provides a vision of larger possibilities.

To this day, I love visiting the Illinois State Museum, attending special programs, enjoying the permanent and changing exhibits, and finding my place in an institution whose staff makes the most of its size, budget, volunteers, and resources.

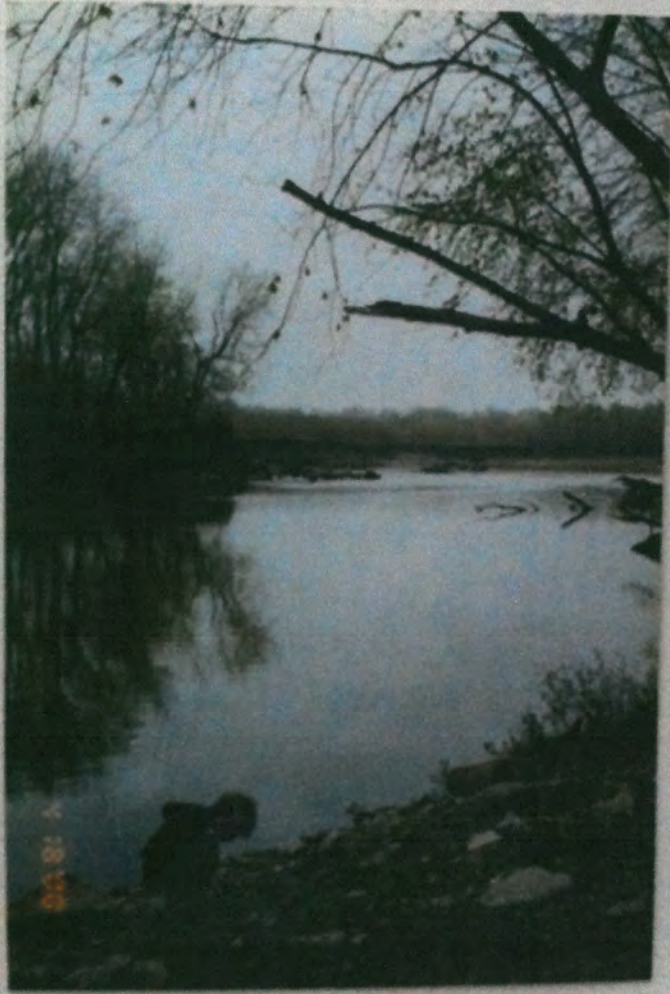
The Illinois State Museum is a tradition and treasure that must not be squandered. Short-sighted people may say Illinois cannot afford this treasure. But a narrow-minded decision today will create a loss that cannot be reclaimed.

Please preserve the Illinois State Museum for today and all future generations.

Thank you,

DiAnne Crown









GLEN M. MACDONALD
JOHN MUIR MEMORIAL CHAIR
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
1255 BUNCHE HALL
405 HILGARD AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1524
(310) 825-1071 FAX (310) 206-5976

July 2, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner Governor, State of Illinois
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
The Honorable John Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate

Dear Sirs,

I must express deep concern regarding the closure of the Illinois State Museum. I have had opportunity to visit the Museum in Springfield, work with researchers of the Museum and have used scientific data produced by the Museum frequently in my own research. The Museum with its statewide facilities has a 138 year history of human and natural history research and education that provides to people of Illinois a critical perspective on their heritage. The Museum also provides the people of the Nation and the World insights into the remarkable human and natural history of Illinois. The Museum also serves as a draw for public visitors to the State and scientists such as myself and contributes to the economy through enhanced tourism and generating external research dollars.

The curators and staff of the Illinois State Museum have remarkable National and International reputations in research and education and the curation of important artifacts and natural objects. Important collections I am aware of include Native American artifacts and remains and some of the most remarkable Pleistocene mammal fossils in the World. Museum scientists, such as Dr. Eric Grimm have been world leaders in organizing paleontological data into online geospatial databases that have become a model for agencies such as NOAA and are used internationally in scientific research. The Illinois State Museum is a productive and innovative center in America's science and research enterprise. This provides widespread recognition to Illinois and generates outside funding from agencies such as the National Science Foundation for these efforts.

I have worked in Syria where we are now sadly seeing priceless museum collections and archaeological sites purposely destroyed or looted. People are driven away from seeing and understanding their heritage and the heritage of the land on which they live. People are actively being denied access to and education about their past. We deplore this and often see the United States as a model for preservation and access to its past history. We try to learn from the past to build a better future. It is simply startling that a state government in the United States would at this time shutter all of its own museums and

deny its citizens the opportunity to learn about the history and pre-history of their own state.

I understand that economic conditions in Illinois require difficult choices, but urge you to reconsider the severity of these specific budget actions and the closure of the Illinois State Museum System. What is the message Illinois is sending to its own citizens about the importance of their own history? What message is Illinois sending to the World about itself and what it stands for today?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glen M. MacDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glen" being the most prominent.

Glen M. MacDonald
Distinguished Professor
John Muir Memorial Chair
Member of the National Academy of Sciences

IPPS Testimony on IL State Museum Closing

The 50 plus members of the Illinois Prairie Pastel Society (IPPS) strongly object to the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum and its sites around the state.

IPPS members are Illinois professional artists, hobbyists, community leaders and energetic advocates of the Arts. Many have been juried into the museum's Illinois Artisans Program and have proudly displayed and sold their works in Chicago, Lockport, Springfield and Rend Lake earning both personal income and income for the state. In addition, their Made in Illinois arts have reached national and international audiences creating repeat sales and tourism.

To shutter the museum and its valuable educational, research, cultural, anthropological and historical contributions will in effect cut the heart out of any Illinois culture that exists. Closing it is simply wrong.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Scaife, President
Illinois Prairie Pastel Society (IPPS)



GLEN M. MACDONALD
JOHN MUIR MEMORIAL CHAIR
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
1255 BUNCHE HALL
405 HILGARD AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1524
(310) 825-1071 FAX (310) 206-5976

July 2, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner Governor, State of Illinois
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
The Honorable John Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate

Dear Sirs,

I must express deep concern regarding the closure of the Illinois State Museum. I have had opportunity to visit the Museum in Springfield, work with researchers of the Museum and have used scientific data produced by the Museum frequently in my own research. The Museum with its statewide facilities has a 138 year history of human and natural history research and education that provides to people of Illinois a critical perspective on their heritage. The Museum also provides the people of the Nation and the World insights into the remarkable human and natural history of Illinois. The Museum also serves as a draw for public visitors to the State and scientists such as myself and contributes to the economy through enhanced tourism and generating external research dollars.

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Glen M. MacDonald
Distinguished Professor
John Muir Memorial Chair
Member of the National Academy of Sciences



The Paleontological Society



2 July 2015

Dear Gov. Bruce Rauner,

Department of Geology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-2501
T 706.542.0424
F 706.542.2425
stratum@uga.edu

On behalf of the Paleontological Society, I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum.

The Illinois State Museum represents a unique opportunity to educate the citizens of Illinois and beyond, an opportunity that goes far beyond what is possible from books and the internet. Museums offer the ability to see the actual physical objects that tell us about our world and our history. The Illinois State Museum is nationally recognized for its exhibits that portray the past history of Illinois, both the historical past and the geological past. These exhibits are critically important for helping citizens to understand their world so that they can make informed choices on a wide range of issues, including climate change and extinction. The Illinois State Museum goes well beyond exhibits and offers training for educators and learning experiences for school children, experiences that cannot be replaced.

Museums are also economically important, through tourism dollars, federal grants, and education. The Illinois State Museum in particular is a nationally known tourist attraction, and closure of it would be a significant loss, both economically and culturally, to the citizens of Illinois and beyond.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven M. Holland
President, Paleontological Society



Illinois State Academy of Science

FOUNDED 1907

ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706-5000

Dear Governor Rauner,

June 18, 2015

Officers and Staff

President

Dr. Gary A. Bulla
Eastern Illinois University
Dept. of Biological Sciences
600 Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920
gabulla@eiu.edu

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Dr. Laura Corey
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1101 W. College Ave.
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347 S. Gladstone Ave.
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mzelman@aurora.edu

Executive Secretary

Ms. Robyn Myers
502 S. Spring St.
Springfield, IL 62706-5000
217-782-6436
rmyers@museum.state.il.us

On behalf of the Illinois State Academy of Science (ISAS), I ask that you reconsider your executive action to close the Illinois State museums. Such a closure would severely impact both ISAS and science education in Illinois.

First, the impact on science education in Illinois will be dramatic. Illinois state museums serve a critical function in making science accessible and relevant to the public. State museums provide vital educational, research, and career building opportunities in the sciences for Illinois students, pre-K through Ph.D. The closing of state museums will cripple much needed efforts to strengthen STEM education in Illinois and will erode the future of science awareness, progress, and industry in the State.

Secondly, although ISAS receives no state money for operating expenses, this closure would have a significant impact on the ability of our organization to function effectively in promoting research training and science education in the State of Illinois. ISAS has been housed at the Illinois State Museum since its inception of 1907, and the museum has consistently provided office, storage and meeting space for our organization. This organization is comprised of an executive council (President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary and Executive Secretary), as well as a standing council of approximately 20 scientists and over 400 full members (over half of whom are students) that are scientists from more than 30 universities, colleges, museums, and conservancies across the state.

We host an annual conference that rotates among several colleges at which nearly 180 professional presentations (poster and oral) of research findings are given each year, primarily by undergraduates and graduate students. ISAS promotes student training and dissemination of research findings in a broad array of 15 scientific disciplines ranging from Botany to Molecular Biology to Physics to Science Education. Participation in the Annual Meeting and other ISAS activities has provided a competitive edge for thousands of Illinois undergraduate and graduate students as they enter the workforce.

In conclusion, the Illinois State Academy of Sciences requests revoking the decision to close our Illinois State museums in light of the strong negative impact this action would have on both our academy and science education/research in our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary A. Bulla, Ph.D.
President, Illinois State Academy of Science

06 July 2015

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM – OPPOSITION OF ITS CLOSURE

To whom it may concern,

In my scientific discipline of Quaternary science, the research and production of the scientist at the Illinois State Museum plays a fundamental role in the development in of a truly vast body of work. I am thus saddened and deeply concerned that the state is considering its closure. This institute represent a vital element in a wide range of ongoing scientific activity, and its disintegration would have negatively impact research from around the world.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Chase





Professor J. John Lowe
Department of Geography
Royal Holloway University of London
Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX, U.K.
Tel: +44-(0)1784-443565/443563
FAX: +44-(0)1784-472836
Email: j.lowe@rhul.ac.uk

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

7th July 2015

Dear Governor Rauner,

Proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System

As Vice-President of a global organisation dedicated to developing our understanding of how global environmental systems operate, I was shocked to learn of the proposal to close *the Illinois State Museum System*. The organisation I represent is INQUA (*International Union of Quaternary Associations*), a constituent member of ICSU (*International Council for Science*). INQUA focuses on the natural processes that have affected the Earth's surface over the past two-and-a-half million years, the most important geological period for understanding current environmental changes, and for predicting future developments. As a scientist in this field, I have always looked to the USA as a leading and inspirational beacon in our subject, made possible by a vibrant and diverse network of scientific institutions that are the envy of the world. The *Illinois State Museum* is a recognised key player in this regard. Closing down important struts of scientific infrastructure is a retrograde step, especially today, when we need to understand the past in all its complexity, in order to build for the future. This decision will affect all generations – those who have striven to make the Museum what it is today, and those of the future who stand to benefit most from its accumulated knowledge and memory. I urge the Governors and the Illinois state representatives to think again.

Yours respectfully,

Professor J. John Lowe MA, PhD, FGS, CGeol., FRGS

*Gordon Manley Professor of Geography
Emeritus Professor of Quaternary Science of the University of London
Emeritus Fellow of The Leverhulme Trust (2014-16)
Vice-President of INQUA (2nd term), 2008-15*

CC:

The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate
The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
Tim Nuding, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate
Wayne Rosenthal, Director, Department of Natural Resources
Aaron Winters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Office of the Governor
Mike Zolnierowicz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

Likewise, the museum presents and supports the work of Illinois artists, including many student artists. Closing the museum means these exhibits need to be removed from the museum and returned to their owners, which will result in additional costs to the state.

Lawmakers, the governor and other officials came together in May to dedicate and rename the museum in memory of our colleague Alan Dixon. During the ceremony, lawmakers from both parties and the governor all discussed the importance of the museum and praised its work.

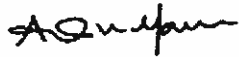
It's ironic that only two months later we need to defend this valuable state resource.

Governor Rauner's decision to close the museum appears to be both premature and arbitrary. It was announced in June under the cloud of a potential shutdown but now that we have entered the new fiscal year, other state facilities and offices are remaining open.

I ask that COGFA review this and other testimony and see that the costs of closing the Illinois State Museum outweigh any marginal benefit.

The Illinois State Museum brings economic and social value to our state and should remain open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Manar".

Andy Manar
State Senator 48th District

Dear Governor Rauner,

Thank you! You signed HB 3763 which provides \$36 billion in state spending for general education state aid. This bill makes sure that Illinois schools will open on time, even if the budget has not, yet, been settled.

According to an article written by Doug Finke in the *State Journal-Register* (6/24), you, Governor Rauner, are reported to have stated at the signing, "Education is the most important thing we do as a community. I would have done more for our schoolchildren, but I am taking action today to ensure our teachers are paid and our schools are open and funded."

Yes, I agree that you should do more for our schoolchildren. For instance, **for our students' sakes, let's NOT close the Illinois State Museum System.** The State Museum is a gem of a Museum for those students who live in Springfield, as well as the whole State of Illinois. Many educational opportunities would be denied.

- ~ Younger students love the Mary Ann MacLean Play Museum on the ground floor where they can dig for mastodon parts, view objects through a super powerful microscope, read about insects in the "library," and drive the red Jeep to Africa.
- ~ Older students love to visit the Museum with their parents and teachers to learn about the Ice Ages in the Changes Exhibit, the current "Hot Science" gallery, the life-sized Indian tableaus, At Home in the Heartland daily artifacts through IL history, marvel at the size of the huge mastodont skeleton, various science and art programs and current exhibitions.
- ~ All students love to visit Dickson Mounds Museum to learn about the Native Americans who inhabited our area. In addition, the Research and Collections Center can be the biggest treat of all to students who have the opportunity to visit. Right there at the Research and Collections Center and at Dickson Mounds Museum are 8 million wonderful specimens of stone tools and pottery dating back to 10,000 BC and other archeological and natural specimens and collections.
- ~ Parents love to sign up their children for educational programs like Satur-Play, Story Time, Summer Camps film fests and overnights at the Museum. They also enjoy the Illinois Artisans Program with artwork that has been exhibited and sold in the Museum Stores.
- ~ Teachers love to take field trips to the Museum. Lesson plans and expert personnel facilitate them, along with a plethora of developmental resources. Also, the Teacher Appreciation Event has been a favorite of teachers for a number of years.

Let's say you choose to reopen the Museum at a later date, the cost of which has not been determined. Reopening may be as difficult as closing. Many of the nationally recognized scientists will have gone elsewhere. The federal grants will have been cancelled. Borrowed specimens will have been sent back. Consigned artwork will have been returned. The administration will be working at other jobs. Confidence and respect for our Museum will be diminished.

Governor Rauner, I KNOW you must care about kids and their education. I saw that lively, happy photo of you on the lawn of the Illinois State Museum last week with students at an Illinois State Museum Summer Camp. Rauner Academy, a turnaround magnet school, was begun by you in the interest of children who were not performing in Chicago. I have to believe that if your own children or Rauner Academy were located in Springfield, you would be advocating for the Illinois State Museum for their educational enrichment.

Is there not another facility or program in this entire state that could replace this closing? Surely another relatively small operation that also costs about \$6 million per year to operate and does not directly affect students could be targeted. It seems to me that a \$6 million (1/10 of 1% of the \$4 billion shortfall) gain by closing the Museum is not a sound educational practice for our students.

I'd like you to carefully consider the impact of closing the Illinois State Museum System on the education of children of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Sandra Bauer

Springfield School District 186, International Baccalaureate Programme, Iles School Head Teacher

Horace Mann Educator of the Year 2009

National Board Certified Teacher

Illinois State Museum Society Board of Directors, President (2014-2015)

Dear Members of CGFA:

I am opposed to closing the Illinois State Museum System, and urge you to recommend against closure. I believe that Governor Rauner was given bad advice when told to close the Museum. His advisors could not have known all the ways in which the Museum has positive impacts that reach well beyond the state's physical borders and beyond the temporal boundaries of the present. I would like to share a few of my personal experiences that demonstrate some of the Illinois State Museum's wide-ranging impacts.

I have worked at the Illinois State Museum for 33 years, **but not as a state employee**. Rather, I have been a researcher with the Museum's non-profit foundation, the Illinois State Museum Society.

What this means for me is that for 33 years I have worked on projects funded by outside entities.

What this means for the State of Illinois is that the **ISM Society is a successful business partner** with an astounding multiplier effect that supplements the taxpayer dollar. This partnership has multiplied the effectiveness of the taxpayers' dollars by enhancing the Museum's exhibits with an authenticity and accuracy gained from research funded by other entities. I think that this partnership between the State and ISM Society is one in which the fruits of our labors **truly have trickled down** to everyone in our state, and even beyond our borders.

Although I list a few of my experiences, I know that other employees at the Museum have contributed similarly to the state with their expertise on their particular projects. From the following examples of projects on which I have worked – all funded by entities other than the state of Illinois – you will see that the Illinois State Museum requires specialized workers who often need to be the proverbial “Jack/Jill of all trades.”

- As a teacher with the Museum Tech Academy, I was funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This multi-year after school program helped educate middle and high school students in STEM subjects in a way that was fun, yet required self-motivation on the part of the students.
- Commissioned by other museums, I have produced numerous fossil replicas of large Ice Age mammals (which require months to mold, cast, and paint). Replicas made in the Museum Casting Lab have educated and entertained visitors not only in our museum, but also in the Yukon, South Africa, Canada, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas. This summer, the Indiana State Museum and the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton, Canada requested replicas – these jobs are contingent on the Illinois State Museum staying open.
- Donations from all over the state paid for me to replicate a skeleton of a Jefferson's Giant Ground Sloth (named for President Thomas Jefferson). This Ice Age mammal is displayed in the *Changes!* Exhibition at the Illinois State Museum.
- I replicated fossils for the dig pit in the Mary Ann MacLean Play Museum, the special area for children that is located within the Illinois State Museum. “Digging” for fossils while playing paleontologist is one of our many popular activities in which kids learn and create while playing.
- For many years, the Museum's fossil replicas have been used as touchable displays at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield and DuQuoin and at the annual Rock, Fossil, and Gem Show hosted by

LOESS (Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society) in the Illinois Building. Both the Rock Show and the State Fairs draw thousands of money-spending visitors. These hands-on interactions are just a few of the many ways the Illinois State Museum “takes the show on the road” so that citizens living outside the capital city can appreciate the fruits of their State Museum.

- With funding from the U.S. National Park Service, I helped perform the only wide-scale search for paleontological remains in Mammoth Cave National Park. Located in Kentucky, Mammoth Cave is the world’s longest known cave system. The inventory, identification of bones, and subsequent reports by the Illinois State Museum have contributed to our knowledge about the Midwest’s past Ice Age landscape. The Illinois State Museum’s work continues to contribute via the Park’s recently built interpretive exhibits, their educational programs, and an upcoming book about Mammoth Cave.
- The Museum’s long history of working in caves has led to requests for our expertise in analyzing paleontological and archaeological remains found in caves and rock shelters in Illinois, Missouri, South Dakota, and Minnesota.
- I have identified bones from numerous prehistoric Native American sites in Illinois and surrounding areas. This work contributes to our knowledge about the prehistoric inhabitants of our state, helps us understand that prehistoric people successively interacted with a changing and often harsh environment, and promotes cultural diversity.
- Recently, I worked on the Neotoma Paleoecology Database, which is an international collaboration led by the Pennsylvania State University and the Illinois State Museum. Currently, I am funded by the National Science Foundation to contribute Illinois archaeological data to an international database called tDAR (the Digital Archaeological Record).

Clearly, you can see that the Illinois State Museum in Springfield and its 5 additional sites provide taxpayers a lot of value for their \$6 million tax dollars. The Museum and its non-profit foundation provide a specialized and unique service to our citizens. They bring a positive international reputation to Illinois that cannot be bought – it was hard earned by successive generations of Museum employees who built upon the work of those before, and who pass the baton onto the next.

The Illinois State Museum is unique – it is the **ONLY** museum that focuses on the art, geology, archaeology, and natural history of Illinois. The Illinois State Museum is an exemplary resource that should serve as a model. In short, the Illinois State Museum is a treasure that should be expanded, not eliminated. I respectfully ask that you recommend keeping the Museum sites open so that current and future generations of Museum employees can continue to safeguard Illinois’ heritage, serve the citizens of Illinois with excellence, and build upon the Illinois State Museum’s 138 year legacy.

Sincerely,

Mona L. Colburn
Springfield, IL

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

We are writing as leaders of the undersigned Regional Museum Associations, representing more than 30,000 museums and their communities across the United States, to express our concern at the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

As we are sure you know, these museums serve many critical functions to the citizens of Illinois. In addition to the money that is put into the local and state economy through employment, purchasing, educational services and tourism, the State Museums also demonstrate the commitment that state government makes to the quality of life of its citizens. State Museums serve as trusted sources of knowledge and research, vital resources for teachers and students, and the repository of the Illinois's cultural and historical memory.

From our experience in each of the states represented in our regions, we know how important State Museums are to the health of our other museums and their communities, providing leadership, practical assistance and inspiration to their colleagues.

We very much hope that you will be able to work with the American Alliance of Museums, the Midwest Museum Association and the Illinois Association of Museums to find ways to keep the Illinois State Museum System open and fully operational for the benefit of the citizens of Illinois and beyond.

Sincerely,



Donna Sack
Executive Director
Association of Midwest Museums



Gretchen Sorin

Gretchen Sorin
President
Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums



Monta Lee Dakin

Monta Lee Dakin
Executive Director
Mountain-Plains Museums Association



Dan Yaeger
Executive Director
New England Museum Association



Susan Perry

Susan Perry
Executive Director
Southeastern Museums Association





Jason Jones
Executive Director
Western Museums Association

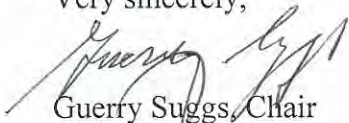


Western
Museums
Association

A most intangible value of the Illinois State Museum system is the respect thereby shown for past and present cultures and natural features of the place we call Illinois, as demonstrated by the research and collections and by the exhibitions and educational programs based on them. Furthermore, studies by the highly educated professional caretakers of these collections have and will inform us for the future well-being of our cultures and our land. These endeavors have been well regarded by others, as evident by the \$2 million or more annually in grants from federal funders (such as the National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Institute of Museum and Library Services) and private foundation sources, and by recent individual gifts that provided for the Mary Ann MacLean Play Museum and the Mary Ann MacLean Resource Center at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. The latter additions are very meaningful for the Illinois State Museum's early childhood education programs, but also for passing on respect for our cultural and natural heritages.

As the governing authority, we see a very great and irreparable danger to the nationally accredited Illinois State Museum system in the prospective closure of its facilities to the public and the cessation of active care and study of the collections. Such actions would deny citizens and their children, teachers and their students, and people from elsewhere access to and education about our cultural and natural heritages, but such actions will also cripple responsible management and care for the collections, and also jeopardize current and future capital, research, and educational grants from federal and private sources. For example, closure would cause the Museum to legally default on obligations for three ongoing National Science Foundation research grants, numerous agreements to care for and provide access to Illinois collections (e.g., with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Center for American Archeology, and the Peoria Tribe of Indians); compliance with state requirements to accept and care for collections under the auspices of the Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act and the Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act; and compliance with federal requirements to respond to inquiries from American Indian tribes about human skeletons and sacred artifacts under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (which would result in federal penalties). We are most concerned that because of the threat of cessation, Illinois will lose many of the highly qualified and internationally recognized professional staff members of the Illinois State Museum system and equally qualified successors to them will see no future here. Accordingly, we most strongly urge you to withdraw the executive directive to cease operations and close the Illinois State Museum system to visitors, which includes layoff of the staff for an unspecified period of time. In our view, this would be wise leadership of the first order. The Board is eager to engage in a dialog with you about options for the Illinois State Museum system that would allow it to continue to provide excellent service to the public and bring visitors and dollars to our communities and the state.

Very sincerely,



Guerry Suggs, Chair

Unanimously representing the non-ex officio members
of the Board of Directors of the Illinois State Museum



ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM

Board of Directors
502 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62706
217/782-7011
www.museum.state.il.us

Guerry Suggs
Chair

Dr. Brian Butler
Vice-Chair

Dr. Lorin Nevling
Secretary

Jessica Jagielnik

Mary Jo Potter

Dr. George Rabb

Dr. David M. Sokol

Leo Welch

Rosemary Winters

June 17, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

We, the Illinois State Museum Board of Directors, have the responsibility of governing the operations of the Illinois State Museum system. We hereby express great concern for the well-being and very existence of this remarkable 138 year old institution as a consequence of your differences with state legislative leaders over the forthcoming budget. We ask that you reflect on the values of the Illinois State Museum system for the citizenry. Its utilitarian values are substantial. In simple economic terms, the state's annual investment of about \$6 million is more than offset by the \$30 million or so brought by tourist and citizen visitors to communities with ISM facilities (Illinois State Museum and Research and Collections Center in Springfield, Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown, Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery, Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery, and Southern Illinois Art and Artisans Center in Whittington). In this vein, the State Museum's facilities obviously also provide very substantial value in the recreational visits and educational services offered to citizens and their children. Nowadays, this annually includes 386,750 visitors to State Museum facilities and programs and over 1,500,000 virtual visitors to the State Museum's websites.

As to intrinsic values of the Illinois State Museum system, prime is the service given to conserving and utilizing much of the cultural and natural heritages of Illinois, reflected in the outstanding collections of art and artisan works, and archaeological, botanical, zoological, and geological materials from throughout the state. Over 13.5 million irreplaceable objects and specimens provide a tangible public record of the life, land, people, and art of Illinois. Particularly important are materials documenting the cultures and relations to the land of the American Indian peoples who first inhabited Illinois. Also quite significant are materials illustrating environmental changes through the ages, especially from the late Ice Age to today. Studies of such materials are important in assessing and modeling the qualities of our future environmental settings and climate changes globally.

July 7, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706
Comments by: **Leah Morse, PO Box 370, Westville, OK 74965**
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System
Position: **Opposed**

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an archaeologist, retired journalist, and parent/grandparent. I recently had the pleasure of working with some archaeologists and biological anthropologists from Illinois on a research project and was very impressed with the knowledge and passion of these professionals and their commitment to uncovering Illinois' history and passing on its discovery on to students and the general public. The Illinois State Museum is one of the vehicles scientists use to distribute that information in an affordable and meaningful way.

As a journalist, parent and frequent traveler (several times per year) through your state, I think the following facts are especially relevant and very true in my experience. I OPPOSE the closing of the Illinois State Museum for the following reasons:

- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy. *My family makes a point to always spend money at every museum we visit in order to support the museum's programs.*

- Closure will be costly for taxpayers (which will offset savings from the closure) and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects, which are governed by written agreements and federal law. The special requirements for these objects means the state will continue to pay for storage and preservation of these materials without any revenue generation to offset these costs, greatly reducing the potential savings.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Leah Morse

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Jeffrey M. Painter,
4835 Countryway E., Apt #305,
Okemos, MI, 48864
Jmpaint99@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System
Type of Testimony: Written Statement Filed
Position: Opposed

7/7/2015

Hello, my name is Jeffrey Painter, and I am writing today in order to urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System. As a native of Springfield, Illinois, a graduate of Illinois State University, and a current Ph.D. candidate in anthropology and archaeology at Michigan State University, the Illinois State Museum System has played an integral role in my life. As a 10 year old, I obtained my first scientific experience by volunteering at the museum's research and collections center. I was able to get real hands-on experience, such as processing soil samples, which, along with the intriguing exhibits at the museum, helped to spark my interest in the sciences.

As I became more interested in archaeology and history during high school, I was able once again to volunteer at the Illinois State Museum research and collections center, this time for a project that was specific to my interests. I was given the chance to volunteer in the lab for the New Philadelphia Archaeological Project, where I assisted in processing the artifacts that had been recovered in the field. During this time, those working within the museum gave me great encouragement and I decided that archaeology was to be my future career.

Once at Illinois State, the Illinois State Museum and Dickson Mounds Museum continued to influence my education and career. Many times, researchers from these museums made appearances as guest lecturers or taught semester long classes. I also had contact with them outside of the classroom on many occasions. During my tenure at Illinois State I learned an immense amount about archaeology and the operation of museums from museum employees Drs. Michael Wiant, Terrance Martin, Michael Conner, and Mr. Alan Harn. Additionally, they all provided much encouragement, support, and wisdom related to my graduate studies, and continue to do so today. As a Ph.D. candidate, I continue to work with researchers for the Illinois State Museum and Dickson Mounds Museum to this day.

Outside of the classroom and the lab, the numerous public lectures held by the Illinois State Museum have taught me much about subjects outside of my specialty and have provided me with opportunities to meet many great researchers from all over the country and beyond who are excited to share and teach not only students such as myself, but any member of the interested public.

While I have had extensive contact with the museum and its employees, my experiences are not unique. Each year, many young people such as myself are given the opportunity to gain experience in many different fields and work alongside the renowned researchers at the Illinois State Museum. Few places are as dedicated to education and outreach for both students interested in a specific specialty and the general public as the Illinois State Museum, and often it is just as integral as local school systems for educating, influencing, and inspiring. I would not be who I am today and would not be in my current position without the influence of the Illinois State Museum and its employees, so please keep this first-class institution open. Let it continue to educate and inspire, as it has done successfully for decades.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Painter

June 29, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Hello,

My name is Cathy Bredlau, and I am opposed to the facility closure of the Illinois State Museum's Lockport Gallery. For the past ten years, I have served as a volunteer at the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery. In that time, I have personally witnessed regularly occurring school field trips at his facility. For every school group, the staff always provides high quality educational presentations, programs, and guided exhibit tours. If the Lockport Gallery is closed, our regional school systems will be denied an opportunity to learn about the art and artists of Illinois and experience the enriching importance of attending historically and culturally significant museums.

The Lockport Gallery and its staff is an intrinsic asset to the community of Lockport and the southwest Chicagoland area. People from all around the world visit the facility and are genuinely delighted and impressed by their experience. ISMLG serves as an ambassador for Illinois and the Illinois State Museum. Illinois artists need representation and recognition, and the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery serves as an excellent site for showcasing the breadth and depth of Illinois art.

Please don't close the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery! Countless thousands of schoolchildren, area citizens, visitors and tourists, as well as artists living and working in Illinois will be detrimentally impacted by this facility closure.

Please file my written statement and testimony and use it at the hearing to plead the cause for keeping the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery open to the public now, and in the future. If needed, I will provide oral testimony at the public hearing.

Sincerely,



Cathy Bredlau
Lockport Gallery volunteer

Name: Val Watt II

Re: I oppose the closure of the Illinois State Museum System – July 1, 2015

I am a lifelong resident of Springfield and I write to encourage you to keep the Illinois State Museum system open and funded. This museum has been in existence for 138 year and is something we should all be proud to have in the capitol city of Illinois.

The Illinois State Museum (ISM) is a highly respected professional facility drawing tourists and researchers from around the U.S. and the world.

There are many reasons this museum should be saved, protected, and respected. Just a few of the reasons that come to my mind are:

- No matter what your income -the museum is free and a wonderful educational place to take your family and friends.
- The museum teaches us about all aspects of our environment and our culture throughout time.
- The museum provides internships for students and volunteer opportunities for citizens.
- The museum engages all ages of the community (I noticed the other day in the *Illinois Times* that every Science Topic Program was being held at the ISM and most of the Programs for Children were being held at the ISM).
- The museum cares for large collections of art (both decorative and fine arts), archaeological artifacts, plant and animal specimens, geological samples, impressive library holdings, a large ethnographic collection, and much more.
- The exhibits the ISM creates (at all of the ISM venues) are visually stimulating and educational.
- The free lectures that are held every month. I have enjoyed many of these and they are always well attended, interesting, and informative.
- The excellent programs at Dickson Mounds Museum. I have attended many events at this branch of the ISM too. Birds of Prey events, music events, lectures, guest speaker events, and combined events with Emiquon and Dickson Mounds.
- *The Living Museum* publication. I am a member of the Illinois State Museum Society and I look forward to receiving this high quality publication and learning what new research, new exhibits and new programs are occurring in connection with our Illinois State Museum.
- Lastly (according to the articles I have seen recently) the museum brings in many more tourism dollars to Illinois every year than their budget costs- so why would anyone want to cut a program that is helping the Illinois economy?

Has anyone considered cutting all state programs by an equal percentage amount? This economic burden should be shared by all and should not cause the total destruction of a well respected accredited 138 year old world class museum and research institution. Please do not close the Illinois State Museum.

Sincerely,

Val Watt II



7/1/2015

Albert Casolari
181 Albany St.
Springfield, IL 62702

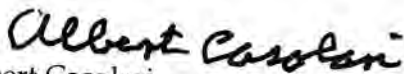
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Attn: Facility Closure
Rm. 703 Stratton Building
401 South Spring St.
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Sir;

From 1960 to 2004, I was Director of the Illinois Sate Museum's Audio-Visual Department. During that period of time I made several positive changes in servicing audio equipment, producing audios, educational motion pictures, videos, and sound effects, and performing various other duties associated with my department. I worked closely with the State Museum always staying within my budget, and the Illinois State Museum has always stayed within their budget. During my tenure, I had the opportunity to meet with people from all walks of life. They could not say enough good about the museum, and they felt it was one of the finest museums of its kind located anywhere within the United States.

I realize that the State of Illinois is trying to cut expenses, but you don't do that on the back of an educational facility such as the Illinois State Museum. Education is a most important factor in the State of Illinois and continues to be. The faculty of the Illinois State Museum are all top professionals in their individual fields and continue to be. As a fellow Republican, I urge Governor Rauner to consider leaving the Illinois State Museum open so that it can continue to educate the general public.

Sincerely,



Albert Casolari
Former, Audio Visual Director
Illinois State Museum
1960- 2004

July 1, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

To Whom it May Concern:

Please do not pass this legislation. Our history and culture is priceless.

The state has taken on the responsibility of caring for the 13.5 million natural history and cultural objects curated by the ISM. These collections cannot simply be boxed up and warehoused or they will be lost forever.

Illinois is very fortunate to have one of the very top state museums in the country and possibly the best research staff of all of them. The people of this state are most fortunate to have such a great facility and such a dedicated staff to carry out the many educational and scientific roles it plays.

Again – please do not pass this legislation!

Tom Pigati
Carol Pigati

Tom and Carol Pigati
Springfield, IL

Lorin I. Nevling, Ph.D.
1191 Sandra Ln.
Monticello, IL 61856
inevling@monticello.net
217.762.8070
217.621.8765

July 2, 2015

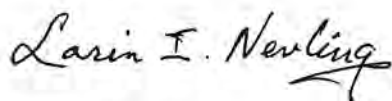
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission Members:

Enclosed is my written testimony opposing the proposed closing of The Illinois State Museum. I believe there is an unequivocal demonstration of the importance of the Museum to our citizenry. The joint public/private funding partnership is a notable achievement that, over time, is likely to expand on the private side.

The Illinois State Museum must not be closed.

Sincerely,



Lorin I. Nevling
Secretary, Board of the Illinois State Museum

Enclosure

TESTIMONY BY LORIN I. NEVLING, Ph.D.
Secretary, The Board of the Illinois State Museum
BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT FORECASTING AND
ACCOUNTABILITY
Concerning the Facility Closure of The Illinois State Museum
July 7, 2015

In Opposition to the Proposal for Closure

The proposal to close the Illinois State Museum includes not only the main Museum and Collections Center in Springfield, but also facilities in Chicago, Lewiston, Lockport, and Whittington. The Museum was founded in 1877 by an act of the Illinois State Legislature and has been supported by all successive Legislatures. If closed, the Springfield State Journal Register (6/28/2015) stated, "For 138 years the Illinois State Museum has been a priority for the state, through wars, economic downturns and tough times. If leaders choose to close the Museum, Illinois will invalidate decades of valuable and meaningful research and preservation work, as well as people's interest in the state's history and culture. And Illinois will be a failure on yet another front."

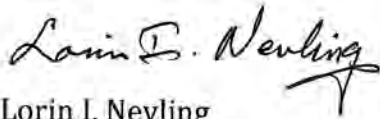
What makes the Illinois State Museum (ISM) such an important asset for the people of Illinois?

- The Illinois State Museum System, uniquely among the extraordinary museums in the state, engages citizens in the discovery of the land, life, people, and art of Illinois.
- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (only 5% of the U.S. museums have received this rating).
- More than 387,000 visitors in 2014 (including 40,000 school children and 2,300 teachers).
- 1.5 million virtual visitors to its educational website.
- The State financed budget of ISM is approximately \$6.3 M, which is supplemented by \$2M that comes through the Society, a 501 (c) 3 organization in support of the ISM, in the form of grants, contracts, and charitable donations. This is an outstanding example of governmental/private sector cooperation.
- Closing the Museum is estimated to realize savings of approximately \$ 4.8M.
- Visitors to State Museum facilities and attendees of off-site Museum programs and events spend about \$33 million in Illinois communities each year (estimate: Illinois Office of Tourism).

- ISM sponsors the Illinois Artisans Program, which provides an outlet for Illinois artisans to sell their products through shops in State Museum outlets.
- ISM studies and cares for over 13.5 million artworks, artifacts, and natural history specimens that provide the tangible evidence for the cultural and natural heritage of Illinois and are shared through exhibitions and educational programs.
- ISM is the repository for archaeological and paleontological collections from public lands and maintains the statewide archaeological site file under the auspices of the state Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act. The file is necessary to comply with state and federal requirements of historic preservation laws and rely on the Museum for care of collections that result from these projects.
- ISM's largest collections are from archaeological sites representing the Native American heritage of Illinois (over 7.5 million specimens).
- ISM curates human skeletal remains that are recovered under the auspices of the state Human Skeletal Remains Protections Act (20 ILCS 3440/14).
- ISM cares for American Indian, federal, and state collections under the auspices of curation agreements. These agreements require access to the collections for research and education.
- The federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) requires that museums inventory collections of skeletal remains, associated grave goods, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony and requires repatriation of such objects if requested by lineal descendants.
- The highly trained staff of researchers routinely publish the results of their efforts in professional journals, popular pamphlets, online, and offer educational programs. For example, the Landscape History Program documents and interprets long-term changes in Illinois climate, landforms, plant and animal communities, and human culture.
- The quality of the staff is outstanding as evidenced by federal grants from the National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and United States Army Corps of Engineers.
- If the Museum were to close, it would be forced to default on more than \$2M in grants and contracts.
- Each year undergraduate and graduate doctoral and masters candidates utilize Museum collections in furtherance of their reports, theses, and dissertations.

- In the event of closure the highly qualified Museum staff members may not wait for possible reopening, and the ISM likely could lose experienced scientists and historians. Intellectual replacement could require a generation or more.

In summary, the closure of The Illinois State Museum would deny Illinois citizens access to their natural and cultural history. Further, it would disavow the research and educational efforts of generations of highly trained museum professionals as well as refute the efforts of generations of elected officials devoted to public service. The Illinois State Museum must not be closed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorin I. Nevling". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

Lorin I. Nevling



PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

118 S. Eight Tribes Trail (918) 540-2535 FAX (918) 540-2538
P.O. Box 1527
MIAMI, OKLAHOMA 74355

CHIEF
John P. Froman
SECOND CHIEF
Jason Dollarhide

June 25, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the possible closing of the Illinois State Museum.

As Chief of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, a federally-recognized Indian tribe, I cannot emphasize the utmost importance of preserving what little heritage and culture our Tribe has left. Forced from our ancestral lands in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Missouri, the Peoria's were relocated first in Missouri, then in Kansas and, finally, here in northeastern Oklahoma. We are descendants of those who created the great mound civilizations in the central United States two thousand to three thousand years ago.

Due to the impact of relocation, boarding schools, fear of more broken agreements between the government and Native Americans, most of our language and much of our culture has been lost. The artifacts housed at the Illinois State Museum holds over 50,000 of our Tribal artifacts, of which approximately 2400 objects are currently on exhibit. This exhibit is the largest representation of our Tribe, ancestors, and our past.

The Illinois State Museum, artifacts and sacred objects on display, play a crucial role in preserving the history of our Tribe. The Cooperative Agreement between the Peoria Tribe and the Illinois State Museum for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections, has been in place since 1999, and renewed for another 10 year term in January 2012.

It is my personal hope that the Illinois State Museum, a nationally accredited museum in business for over 135 years, will not be forced to terminate this agreement due to state budget cuts. This act would represent yet another broken agreement made with not only

TREASURER
Aaron Wayne Blalock

SECRETARY
Tonya Mathews

FIRST COUNCILMAN
Carolyn Ritchey

SECOND COUNCILMAN
Craig Harper

THIRD COUNCILMAN
Alan Goforth

the Peoria Tribe, but all of the Native American tribes represented at the Illinois State Museum.

We trust you and the great state of Illinois, will consider the ramifications and seriousness of closing this facility rich in Native American history.

We appreciate your careful consideration in this matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JPF', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John P. Froman
Chief

July 1, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Audrie S. Haag 75 Linden Lane Springfield, IL 62712
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a *Springfield resident who has been enjoying the museum for years.*

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.



Audrie S. Haag

Flowers by Rieman Leta Holtzschlag

217-245-4787

WEST STATE AT PRAIRIE

611 Coronado Blvd.

TELEPHONE 245-4787

JACKSONVILLE, ILL. 62650

July 1, 2015

Dear Sir,

Please do not close the Illinois
State Museum.

I was there earlier this year and
my son's class came over in June.

So many of our friends enjoy coming
to Springfield and visiting the museum.

Thank you,

Leta Holtzschlag

July 2, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

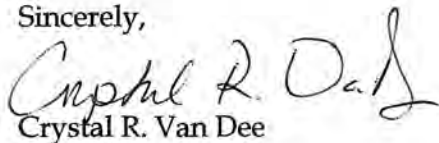
Museum professionals in Nevada are dismayed about the potential closure of the Illinois State Museum. The impact of museum closures, even if temporary, would reverberate for generations. Community trust would be broken and millions of people would be unable to access the cultural heritage of your wonderful state.

Museums are more than just storage locations. For example:

- The Illinois State Museum system is part of your state's educational infrastructure, and served over 40,000 school children and 2,300 teachers in 2014
- Last year the Illinois State Museum system served almost 400,000 people in person and 1.5 million virtual visitors
- Children who visit museums have higher achievement scores in reading, math, and science. They also have increased critical thinking skills and empathy
- Museums support tourism - tourists who visit museums tend to stay longer and spend more
- Museums contribute \$21 billion dollars to the U.S. Economy every year
- Volunteer programs help teenagers and adults learn valuable career skills
- Museums create good citizens through educational programming

The Nevada Museums Association urges Governor Rauner and the Illinois legislature to work together to ensure that the museum remain open. Closing your state museum will deny citizens the right to learn about who they are; it will obscure the rich history and culture of your state.

Sincerely,



Crystal R. Van Dee

President

Nevada Museums Association

July 7, 2015

Mr. Dan R. Long, Executive Director

Commission On Government Forecasting & Accountability

703 Stratton Office Building

Springfield, Illinois 62706

Re: Planned Closure of Illinois State Museum

Dear Mr. Long:

I write you today to protest the planned closure of the Illinois State Museum and to request reconsideration and reversal of the decision.

The Illinois State Museum is one of the few (I can think of only three: the Illinois State Museum, Lincoln Home Area, Lincoln Museum and Library) that have a positive economic effect for the areas of the State of Illinois in which they are located. The Illinois State Museum is surely the leader with five locations in the State of Illinois.

Closure of these facilities would only cause economic damage to the areas in which they are located, due to loss of income from visitors. Income from visitors to the Illinois State Museum facilities is estimated to be three to five times greater than the cost to operate them.

Further, the Illinois State Museum has contractual obligations with the Federal Government to keep numerous artifacts. It would appear that closure of the Research and Collection facility in Springfield would result in serious and expensive legal actions by the Federal Government.

In closing, I request reconsideration and reversal of the decision to close the Illinois State Museum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell W. McClellan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Russell W. McClellan, PE

July 2, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Mary Obodzinski
1136 Waterford Cut
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Facility being closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I have been an Illinois Artisan since 1996. This program, through the ISM has given me an opportunity to show my pottery in the Illinois Artisan Shops in Chicago, Springfield & Rend Lake. Nearly every month I received a check as a result of the sale of my work. Several times, my work was selected to be exhibited in special shows at the Robert Morris Galleries in Springfield & Chicago. Every time I delivered work to these 3 stores or participated in special exhibits I spent money, I bought gas, I bought food, I bought parking, I spent the night (Rend Lake & Springfield). I purchased the materials to make my art right here in Illinois.

I oppose closing the ISM for the following reasons:

- Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop saw 103,000 visitors, Dickson Mounds in Lewiston 50,000, Lockport Gallery 14,000, Southern Illinois Art Gallery 18,000 & Springfield 200,000, and...
- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer & spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.
- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources.
- The ISM facilities and grand projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.15% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic

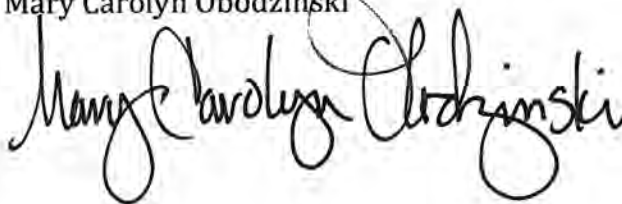
engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.

Finally, the ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections, management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing this valuable status that could take years to get back.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Carolyn Obodzinski

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Carolyn Obodzinski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and a prominent flourish at the end of the name.



Carl Sandburg

USA 13c

CARL SANDBURG

Born in Galesburg, Illinois in 1878, Carl Sandburg had to leave school at the age of thirteen to help support his family. He held a variety of odd jobs, from delivering milk to laying bricks, until 1897 when he hopped a train and traveled west as a hobo.

Always seeking adventure, Sandburg volunteered to serve in the Spanish-American War in 1898. Upon his return from service in Puerto Rico, he enrolled in Lombard College in his hometown of Galesburg, but dropped out shortly before graduation. His first volume of poetry, *In Reckless Ecstasy*, was published privately in 1904 by Lombard professor Philip Green Wright.

From that time on, the written and spoken word became Sandburg's specialty. He worked in advertising and journalism, and served as a labor organizer for the Wisconsin Social-Democrats and as secretary to the first Socialist mayor of Milwaukee. He published *Chicago Poems* in 1916.

In the twenties Sandburg began work on a definitive biography of Abraham Lincoln, which culminated in the two-volume *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years* (1926) and the four-volume *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years* (1939), for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in history in 1940.

During the years between the Lincoln volumes, Sandburg published numerous other books including several collections of children's stories, volumes of poetry, a biography of photographer Edward Steichen, and a collection of folk songs called *The American Songbag* (1927). In 1950 he received his second Pulitzer Prize for *Complete Poems*.

Carl Sandburg continued to write, travel and lecture until his death in 1967.

GREAT AMERICAN WRITERS
CARL SANDBURG
1878-1967



Ruth B. Hutchison
Apt. 7G
3900 N Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60613-3463

June 29, 2015

Commissioners:
What would Carl Sandburg
say about closing Illinois'
State Museums?
SAVE our museums.

Ruth B. Hutchison
Museum member
Citizen
Voter

Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN.: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield IL 62706

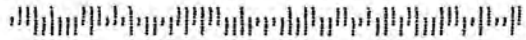
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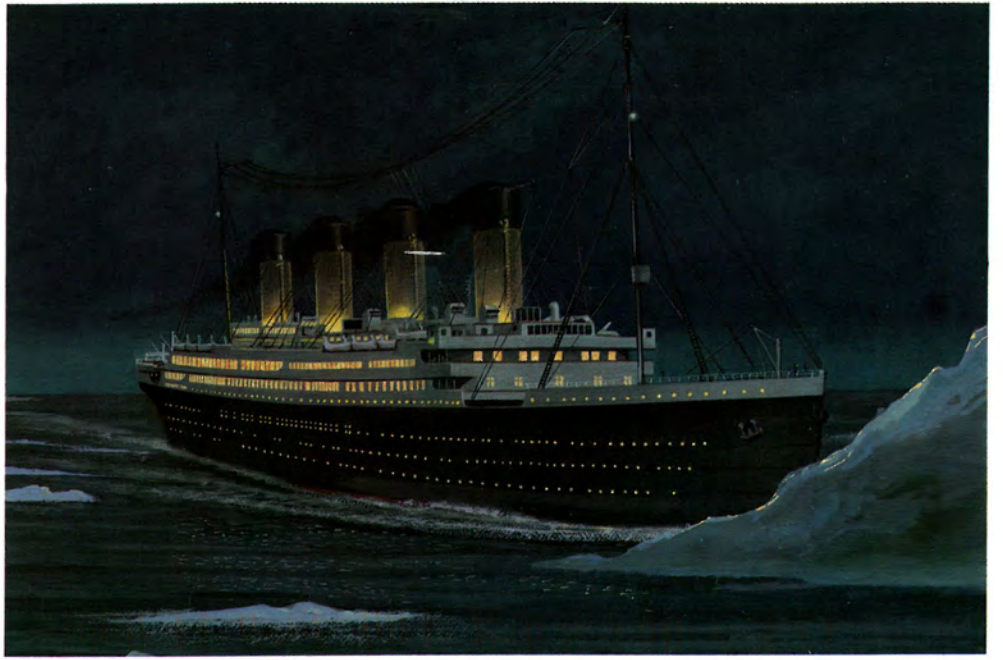
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Stamp issue date: 1978



62706





Miss Ruth B Hutchison
3900 N Lake Shore Dr Apt 7G
Chicago, IL 60613

CAROL STREAM IL 601

6/29/15

30 JUN 2015 PM 3 L



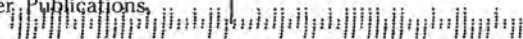
Commissioners :

DO NOT CLOSE the Illinois
State Museums. Closure
would be a titanic loss.

Yours truly,
Ruth B. Hutchison
Museum member,
Citizen, voter

Commission on Govern
Forecasting and
Accountability
ATTN.: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Bldg.
Springfield IL 62706

The Titanic strikes an iceberg on the night of
April 14, 1912. From Batchelor, Six Titanic
Paintings Cards. © 1998 Dover Publications,
Inc. 62706





June 12, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

The undersigned state and national associations of museums that serve Illinois join together to express their concern at the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

Museums attract tourists to Illinois and contribute to our economy. Museums also enhance the quality of life for people of all ages in Illinois. Museums are important educational assets: community anchors, places of engagement, trusted sources of knowledge and research, proven economic engines for our communities, and vital resources for our teachers and students. Museums are the repositories of our important artifacts and cultural memory. Museums play a critical role in the sharing of information, historical memory, and the preservation of important artifacts, archives, and collections.

We very much hope that we can work with you to find ways to keep the Illinois State Museum System open and keep it fully operational for the benefit of the citizens of Illinois and beyond.

Sincerely,

Donna K. Sack
Executive Director
Association of Midwest Museums

Kate Neumiller Schureman
President
Illinois Association of Museums

Katherine M. Finley
Executive Director
Organization of American Historians

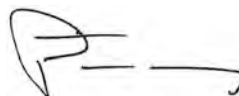


Gary T. Johnson
President
Museums In the Park





Douglas S. Jones, Ph.D.
President
Association of Science Museum Directors



Patrick Moore
President
National Council on Public History



Ra Joy
Executive Director
Arts Alliance Illinois



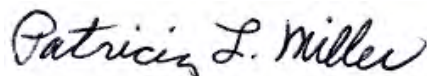
Pamela Rohleder
President
Kane DuPage Regional Museum Association



Laura L. Lott
President and CEO
American Alliance of Museums



Julia Rose, Ph.D.
Chair
American Association for State and Local History



Patricia L. Miller
Executive Director
Illinois Heritage Association



- cc:
- The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate
 - The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
 - Tim Nuding, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget
 - The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate
 - Wayne Rosenthal, Director, Department of Natural Resources
 - Aaron Winters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Office of the Governor
 - Mike Zolnierowicz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Department of Anthropology
IUPUI

Dr. Jeremy J. Wilson
Department of Anthropology
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

July 8th, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum

Dear Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability:

I write to your committee to express my personal and professional opposition to Governor Rauner's proposal to close the Illinois State Museum and its satellite museums and facilities across the state. As a native of Illinois, some of my fondest memories and transformative experiences have been associated with the museum and the various educational outreach programs that the staff and scholars employed by the state developed and conducted during my childhood. Furthermore, as I transitioned from a student to scholar, my goal was and remains to conduct research and provide educational opportunities to students and the public in Illinois. During my graduate studies, the Illinois State (ISM) and Dickson Mounds Museum (DMM) staffs were instrumental, facilitating my multi-month visits to conduct federally-funded research on collections housed at the ISM and DMM. This work and that by dozens of other scholars in the social, behavioral and natural sciences appearing in high-caliber, peer-reviewed journals highlights the significance of the Illinois State Museum among the scientific community at the regional, national, and international levels.

Recently, the ISM and DMM staffs have been particularly important during a three-year National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates at Indiana University entitled "Multidisciplinary Training for Students in Environmental & Social Sciences through Archaeological Research." The broader impacts of our program have included increasing scientific disciplinary connections among undergraduates, educational outreach to local communities, creating a greater awareness of the importance of multidisciplinary research, and increasing the overall diversity of students in research and academic environments. We have explicitly recruited a diverse set of students from Illinois, Indiana and elsewhere with the goal of bridging existing disciplinary boundaries and building a network of professional relationships. Furthermore, we have actively recruited students from groups traditionally underrepresented in the social sciences, humanities, and STEM disciplines. It is not hyperbole to state that *none of*



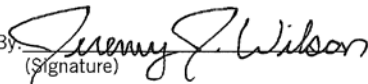
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Department of Anthropology
IUPUI

this would have been possible without the assistance of the staff of the Illinois State Museum.
Our concurrent research outcomes have included the documentation and archaeological investigation of the single largest prehistoric archaeological site (Lawrenz Gun Club [11Cs4]) in the Illinois River valley. We will continue our work on this site, but fear that the closing of the museum will greatly diminish our capacity to provide opportunities to interested students and the public in west-central Illinois.

In closing, I would urge the members of the committee to look beyond the current budgetary crisis and the nominal operating costs associated with the ISM (relative to other state expenditures) and focus on the long-term impacts that the ISM's closure would have on the state of Illinois, the state's cultural and natural heritage, intrepid young Illinois students interested in pursuing careers in science, and the scientific community. There is no doubt in my mind that I would not have gone into my field of study without the opportunities and resources provided by the ISM. If I can be of any further assistance to the committee during the decision process, please let me know. My contact information is included below. I thank you for your time and the consideration of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

By: 
(Signature)

Jeremy J. Wilson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Telephone: 317-274-5787
Email: wilsojer@iupui.edu



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

July 8, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

This written testimony regards the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) system. The Department of the Interior is strongly opposed to the proposed closure of the premier research museum for the Midwest region of the United States. It is a leader in research on the archaeology, paleontology, and biological diversity of Illinois, Missouri, and other nearby states, along with the critical management of the museum collections related to the sites and localities investigated by Museum staff. Further, ISM meets the highest museum standards through its long-standing accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums and has served as a model for many other state and regional museums.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and National Park Service (NPS), among several other bureaus and offices. Collectively, the DOI is responsible for managing, preserving, and accounting for one of the largest collections of museum objects in the world. The DOI collection is estimated to consist of over 194 million artifacts, specimens, and documents from the disciplines of archeology, archives, art, biology, ethnography, geology, history, and paleontology. All of these objects are held in trust for the American people in thousands of facilities across the country. One of DOI's trusted partners in collections management and research is the Illinois State Museum.

The DOI is opposed to the proposed closure of the ISM system for three primary reasons. We are concerned about the future care and preservation of collections that the ISM provides for several FWS National Wildlife Refuges and NPS national park units. ISM currently curates archaeological collections from 63 archaeological sites recovered from a number of FWS refuges in the Midwest, which amount to approximately 17,000 objects and an additional 28 boxes of artifacts. For the National Park Service, ISM curates several objects from the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Members of the ISM paleontology staff have been long-standing partners of Mammoth Cave National Park and have conducted all of the major surveys for fossils within the cave for the park. This has resulted in numerous discoveries of significant fossils, primarily large numbers of small animals such as bats and rodents that are housed in the ISM Geology Department. Notably, because there are many of these small specimens, the ISM staffs are still inventorying and cataloging the specimens for the park and have already filled about half of a standard geology cabinet. Given these data, we are very troubled by the prospect of how the FWS and NPS collections will be cared for if the ISM is closed. For example, Mammoth Cave National Park does not have a paleontologist on staff to continue the ongoing documentation of the fossil resources in the cave or to work with the park curator on the curation of these fossils. The closing of the ISM will not only be devastating to their long-standing partnership, but will require the park to find another repository in the region to which it can transfer the fossils from ISM.

Since FWS does not have a repository to house its archaeological collections in the region, this will be a similar scenario for that bureau. It will be a major challenge for our bureaus to find one or more repositories with a reputation of excellence as enjoyed by the ISM.

DOI is opposed to the ISM closure because ISM is a well-renowned research museum. It provides baseline research data and collections that are critical to the management and interpretation, particularly of archaeological and paleontological resources, in a number of NPS park units and FWS refuges in the Midwest region. As mentioned above, ISM paleontological staffs have provided essential on-site research at Mammoth Cave upon which the park resource managers rely heavily.

DOI is opposed to the ISM closure due to our concern about compliance with Federal statutes, particularly the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). ISM houses some NAGPRA-related cultural items from six archaeological sites located on FWS refuge lands, including a minimum number of 21 sets of human remains. We are concerned about the future disposition of the DOI NAGPRA-related items.

We also very concerned about the financial repercussions of the proposed closure of ISM based on the State-wide financial shortfall. There will be a number of significant costs associated with the closure that should be considered. These include, but are not limited to, the costs to retrieve and disperse the many loans of objects between ISM and other museums across the United States; the return of many significant research grants that ISM staff have been honored to receive; the costs of moving collections currently housed for other entities such as DOI; the costs of repatriation; and the costs of legal claims that might be pursued against the State.

In closing, we strongly urge the Commission to reject the proposal to close the ISM. We look forward to working with ISM to strengthen the partnership between ISM and the Department of the Interior.

Sincerely,



Debra E. Sonderman

Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management

Information required by the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

Name: Debra E. Sonderman

Facility being closed: Illinois State Museum system

Position: Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management, U.S. Department of the Interior

Type of testimony: Written Statement Filed

Email for confirmation: Debra_Sonderman@ios.doi.gov

July 12, 2015

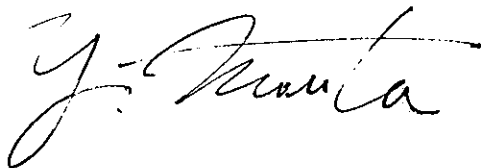
The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

As a President of the Japanese Association of Historical Botany, I am profoundly concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally known staffs, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. Some of our important databases of Japanese plants, animals and fossils are also maintained and updated in the System. Scientists of the ISM have developed the database and educated many scientists of the world for the management and development of the database. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. The dissolution of these resources and staffs will be undoubtedly serious loss on science and education. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Yoshimune Morita, PhD
President of the Japanese Association of Historical Botany

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y. Morita', written in a cursive style.

〒275-0012

千葉県習志野市本大久保 2-7-4

NPO 法人花粉情報協会 気付

日本花粉学会事務センター



The Palynological Society of Japan

The Palynological Society of Japan
c/o Association of Pollen Information
Moto-okubo 2-7-4, Narashino
275-0012, Japan

July 11, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

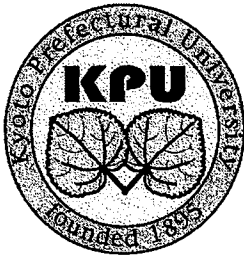
Dear Governor Rauner:

As a President of the Palynological Society of Japan, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. Some of our important databases of Japanese plants, animals and fossils are also maintained and updated in the System. Scientists of the ISM have developed the database and educated many scientists of the world for the management and development of the database. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

齋藤 毅 / TAKESHI SAITO

Takeshi Saito, PhD
President of the Palynological Society of Japan



Kyoto Prefectural University
Lab. of Forest Community Dynamics,
Graduate school of Life and Environmental Sciences
1-5 Hangi-cho, Shimogamo, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8522, Japan
Phone +81 75-703-5683, Fax +81 75-703-5680
e-mail : takahara@kpu.ac.jp

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

I am a palaeoecologist of Japanese University. As a scientist, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. Some of our important databases of Japanese fossil pollen are also maintained and updated in the System. Scientists of the ISM have developed the database and educated many scientists of the world for the management and development of the database. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

Hikaru Takahara, PhD
Professor, Kyoto Prefectural University

12 July 2015

To Whom it may concern,

My Name is Yuji Sode, and I am majoring in natural sciences at Ehime University, in Japan. I am writing to express my opposition to being closed the Illinois State Museum. Museum is valuable institution not only for the Illinois but also worldwide including Japan.

This museum has collections and their databases, which range over Archaeology to Natural sciences. These databases are necessary to education and various studies, and NOT all of these collections can be COLLECTED AGAIN.

I think Database of Mazon Creek fossils is one of collections, which are to be preserved in the Illinois. And we can also see these valuable collections of the Illinois because there is the Illinois State Museum.

Please leave these valuable and interesting collections to children in future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yuji Sode

--

Yuji SODE

The course of Earth's Evolution and Environment,
the Department of Mathematics, Physics, and Earth Science,
Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Ehime University
email: sode@sci.ehime-u.ac.jp



July 10, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure, 703 Stratton Building, Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Dr. Daniel S. Amick, Ph.D., 1851 Sycamore St., Des Plaines, IL 60018
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System
Position: **Opposed**

I am writing to express my *strongest opposition* to the proposed closure of the **Illinois State Museum (ISM)**. As a long-term educator, researcher, and concerned citizen in the Great State of Illinois, I could not be more disappointed to imagine a situation where this *nationally recognized gem in our state* was tarnished by such a closure. My own active research program in Illinois would be greatly diminished because I rely on the ISM to carry out several essential functions of federally mandated support of cultural and natural heritage legislation. I routinely visit their research facilities and coordinate with their staff. In addition, I frequently bring students on fieldtrips to their facilities and I rely on their state-wide leadership and outreach programs. Closure of these facilities would be devastating to thousands of researchers and millions of students, citizens, and tourists. It makes no sense financially, politically, or ethically, to consider closing this institution which is internationally recognized for its contributions and achievements. My professional colleagues in the **Illinois Archaeological Survey** have already pointed out several important reasons to continue funding of this essential state institution:

- The purported \$4 million in savings is *more than offset* by the economic activity the ISM generates through tourism to the museum facilities around our great state. Visitors to the ISM spend \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. In addition, ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services; and the ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year. Thus, closing the ISM may result in a potential revenue loss of nearly \$40 million dollars to the citizens of our state. *Given its important role as a positive revenue stream, closing the ISM just does not make any economic sense!*
- In addition to tourism, these facilities provide an essential educational service as fieldtrip locations for more than 40,000 Illinois school children, many of whom become inspired by these experiences to become educators, researchers, and civic leaders. The ISM provides an opportunity for life-long learning through its exhibits and programs.
- An educated public is more likely to treat archaeological remains and historic artifacts with respect. In particular, Dickson Mounds Museum is one of the premier and longest-running archaeological museums in the country and the collections, exhibits, and programs are among the few resources citizens can learn about Native American heritage, archaeology, and the relationship between society and nature.
- Illinois has a responsibility to preserve and protect its heritage. The institution in the best position to do just that is the Illinois State Museum (ISM) through its curation of artifacts and documents, and educational exhibits and programs. The ISM is the *lawful repository* of artifacts collected on public land. If the museum were to close there would be no place to curate Native American and Historic

settler artifacts recovered while working on public land; yet *in order to receive grants*, public lands, such as forest preserve districts are often *required by state law* to perform such work.

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (fewer than 5% of museums are accredited). An external audit concluded that ISM exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back and become a *very financially costly endeavor*.
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals. They may leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their expertise. Any subsequent rehiring efforts would also be *very financially costly*, not to mention the black-eye this closure would give our state in these intellectual fields.
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and betray the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of the 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall. Given the arguments listed above, closing the ISM seems to be an arbitrary recommendation that makes very little sense and would harm our state's economy and our reputation.

For these reasons and many more, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Amick, Ph.D.
Treasurer, Illinois Archaeological Survey
Associate Professor and Engaged Learning Faculty
Loyola Faculty Scholar and Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence
Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching Freshmen

Department of Anthropology & Institute of Environmental Sustainability
Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL 60660
773-508-3446 office
damick@luc.edu

Web page: <http://www.luc.edu/anthropology/faculty/amick.shtml>
Academia.edu: <http://www.luc.academia.edu/DanielAmick>

July 13, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure 703, Stratton Building, Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Lynn Fisher, Ph.D.
1826 S. College Street
Springfield, IL 62704
fisher.lynn.e@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed: **Illinois State Museum System**
Position: **Opposed**

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to recommend **against** closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System. I am a professor at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) and Adjunct Research Associate at the Illinois State Museum. My students and I depend on the ISM for expertise, collections, and facilities that are irreplaceable resources for teaching and research.

I oppose closing the ISM for the following reasons:

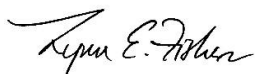
The Illinois State Museum offers unique opportunities for hands-on learning and multi-disciplinary research. I routinely bring archaeology students to ISM facilities for field trips and visits to research labs. Thanks to the ISM, college students exploring the nationally significant history of Dickson Mounds can visit sites, examine artifacts, and talk with expert curators. While learning about scientific methods like the study of ancient animal bones, they can try it themselves using outstanding comparative collections at the ISM's Research and Collections Center. Many students get their first research experience through internships with ISM researchers. These opportunities inspire students and help them develop the skills they need to succeed. Closure would be a tremendous loss to Illinois students and educators, and to tens of thousands of school children who visit ISM facilities each year.

Closing the museum will jeopardize irreplaceable collections and shut down cutting-edge research in landscape history and Illinois history and culture. Scholars from all over the world come to Illinois to study the ISM's collections of more than 12.5 million specimens, objects, and artifacts. Those collections were built by generations of Illinois families who donated materials to the ISM with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. The State of Illinois has a moral and legal obligation to protect this legacy and keep collections accessible to scholars and Native American tribes.

Finally, closing the Illinois State Museum does not make economic sense. The cultural, educational, and research programs of the ISM attract tourists, enrich visitor experience, add millions to the Illinois economy in goods and services, and bring in federal grants. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lynn E. Fisher



July 9, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

re: Closure of Illinois State Museum

To Whom It May Concern:

As President of the Society for American Archaeology, I write to submit written testimony on behalf of our nearly 8000 members to urge that the Illinois State Museum not be closed.

SAA is an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to the research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With nearly 8,000 members, SAA represents professional archaeologists in colleges and universities, museums, government agencies, and the private sector. SAA has members in all 50 states as well as many other nations around the world.

Let me outline SAA's reasons for opposing any such budgetary actions. First, a closure, as demonstrated by the State's own Office of Tourism estimates of visitor spending, would be penny-wise and pound-foolish, as it actually makes money for the State.

Second, the Illinois State Museum's nationally renowned collections are a key resource for archaeological and wildlife scholars and management professionals from the entire upper Midwest, for assessing the long-term histories of people and plant and animal communities in the region—an especially valuable resource in a time of heightened climate variability.

Third, and most important, closure of such a public educational institution and its associated facilities such as Dickson Mounds would deprive the people of the State of Illinois of their history. The Illinois State Museum hosts nearly half a million visitors a year. Respect for natural and cultural heritage comes from knowledge of it. No other public or private institution in Illinois conveys to its citizens a sense of the natural and human history to which they are heirs.

For all these reasons, we urge the Commission affirm the financial, research, and educational value of the Illinois State Museum and refuse to support its closure or other forms of budgetary compromise.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Gifford-Gonzalez", is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Diane Gifford-Gonzalez
President

July 9, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). As a Research Associate at the ISM, as well as a tax payer and a science educator, I find it unconscionable to close the State Museum and deny Illinois citizens access to their own history. Furthermore, there is a growing need in this country for more and better STEM educational programming to produce a scientifically literate society, and the ISM fills a crucial role in advancing the science education of its citizens. The ISM provides countless opportunities for science education through its physical and virtual exhibits, its outreach programs, and the activities of its staff and research associates. These programs and activities are designed to enhance the scientific knowledge of citizens of all ages, including preschool students who interact with the touchable exhibits in the Play Museum; primary students who interact with curators and exhibits on class field trips; middle school and high school students who participate in interactive outreach programs, such as the Aurora Mastodon Project; college students who intern with curators during the summer and school year to learn valuable professional skills; graduate students and professionals who utilize the collections for a wide array of research projects; and lifelong learners who interact with curators at public lectures, exhibit tours, or as volunteers in the research and collections center. The loss of this educational resource would have profound effects on the wide array of learners who utilize the ISM to enhance their understanding of the world around them.

In establishing the Illinois State Museum in 1877, the State of Illinois took on the responsibility to properly care for every object accessioned into its collections, and to hold these resources in trust for the citizens of Illinois, and the world, in perpetuity. Currently, the ISM curates 12.5 million objects of cultural and historical significance to Illinois and the world, including 718 paleontological type fossils - these are the original fossils that scientists used to identify and define new species. It is critical that these objects be cared for by dedicated and professionally trained staff, within the properly maintained environment of the ISM buildings, in order to avoid the irreparable damage and decay that would result from leaving these objects unattended. Furthermore, the state has an obligation to the global community to make these objects available to researchers working on questions and challenges that impact the human condition.

I respectfully urge the Commission to consider the regional, national, and global impacts of closing this 138-year old institution, and to rethink the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Lengyel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacey Lengyel, Ph.D.

Research Associate - Landscape History Program and Anthropology

Illinois State Museum – Research and Collections Center

1011 East Ash Street

Springfield, IL 62703

July 12, 2015

TO: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706
Comments by: *Lucretia S. Kelly, Ph.D., 502 Dianne Avenue, Columbia, IL 62236*
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System
Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System. I am an Illinois citizen and a scientist who frequently uses the animal osteology collection at the ISM Research and Collections Center as part of my research and work. The ISM houses one of the most extensive Osteology collections in the country and is an invaluable resource for archaeologists doing work in the Midwest. If this collection was not accessible I would have to travel to Chicago or Michigan to do my research and that would impact my costs and time greatly! The ISM curators that take care of these collections are experts in their field and are also an invaluable resource to visiting researchers.

I oppose closing the ISM for many reasons, but I believe those listed below are most important as far as the budget shortfall is concerned:

1. Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects, which are governed by written agreements and federal law. Lawsuits would be very costly to the State.
2. In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities. These visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. **The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.**
3. ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.
4. **The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.**

5. I believe all the above figures show that closing the ISM would **NOT** help alleviate the Illinois budget shortfall in any significant way and may even contribute further to the shortfall. It would do irreparable harm to a world-class cultural and educational facility.

—————
For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Lucretia S. Kelly, Ph.D.



AMERICAN QUATERNARY ASSOCIATION

July 9, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

The American Quaternary Association (AMQUA) is a professional organization of scientists and educators in North America studying all aspects of the Quaternary Period-which is the most recent 2.6 million years of Earth's history. We wish to express our deep concern that the Illinois State Museum System may be closed, and to emphasize the added societal value that the ISM provides for the State of Illinois. The ISM System is known world-wide in a range of scientific areas. The ISM has a long track record of cutting edge research, federal research funding, important publications, and globally recognized collections. For example:

- The museum houses an outstanding vertebrate fossil collection and archaeological collection, including a world-class collection of mastodon fossils. This collection is very important in the current research on how ecosystems respond to human populations and climate. Scientists come from throughout North America to study the collections, and indeed from many places in the world.
- We know of three federal research grants that are currently active with the ISM, including collaborative efforts with other institutions in highly competitive areas. These National Science Foundation grants include two in Earth Sciences and one in Archaeology. In the current climate of federal research grant competition, this is impressive.
- The staff of the ISM includes globally known scientists who are also elected Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Demonstrated scientific excellence, importance of contributions, and impact on the common good of society are all election requirements for Fellows of AAAS.

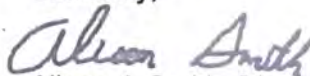
The ISM is also more than just a building to house collections (13.5 million accessioned objects). The ISM system includes 6 facilities across the state: the Illinois State Museum and Research and Collections Center in Springfield, the Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown, the ISM Chicago Gallery, the ISM Lockport Gallery, and the

Southern Illinois Art and Artisans Center. These dynamic facilities provide societal outreach and educational services that benefit all citizens of the state of Illinois, as well as direct employment for 85 people, and indirect employment for numerous small service businesses. For example:

- In 2014 alone, more than 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM System. These visits support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education efforts in countless ways. STEM education is essential for the future of the children of Illinois.
- In 2014 alone, more than 2,300 teachers received help from the ISM System, improving and enhancing learning opportunities in and outside of the classroom.
- In public outreach, the ISM is involved with public access databases for educational use that allow teachers, students, and interested citizens to explore a wide array of topics with real data by simply getting on line. These on-line resources provide public access to information to citizens of the State of Illinois and beyond.

The loss of the ISM System to the State of Illinois would be irreparable. Collections carefully stored and compellingly displayed would be dispersed, long standing agreements with donors broken, knowledge centers disrupted, online services closed. Legal and financial responsibilities associated with the collections do not disappear with the closing of the museum. We do not think the funds saved in closing the ISM System would by any stretch of the financial term "savings" cover the loss of knowledge to the people of Illinois. We encourage a reconsideration of this matter, and an ensured continuation of the ISM System.

Sincerely,



Alison J. Smith, Ph.D. *

President

American Quaternary Association

www.amqua.org



Colin Long, Ph.D.

Secretary

American Quaternary Association



Christopher Hill, Ph.D.

Treasurer

American Quaternary Association

*Alison J. Smith, Department of Geology, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44242

CC:

The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate

The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives

Tim Nuding, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget

The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate

Wayne Rosenthal, Director, Department of Natural Resources

Aaron Winters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Office of the Governor

Mike Zolnierowicz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor



602 ½ E. Green Street, Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 359-5600 Fax: (877) 271-5871 plmxiha@shout.net ; <http://illinoisheritage.prairienet.org/>

July 9, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Name: Patricia L. Miller
Closure of the Illinois State Museum System
Opponent
Oral Statement
plmxiha@shout.net
Relationship: Community Organization
Illinois Heritage Association
Executive Director

Comments:

From a purely fiscal perspective, closing the Illinois State Museum system doesn't appear to be cost-effective. There will be costs involved in shutting the facilities. One has to assume that at least some part of the museums and galleries will be slated for reopening at a later date. To do otherwise would mean even larger expenditures of funds to deaccession and dispose of collections. If the facilities are later reopened to the public, there will be additional costs to do that.

On the other hand, why should the Illinois State Museum system remain open? The principle reason is to serve the public. The state museum is a highly respected educational agency. It fulfills four goals that museums strive for: to collect, preserve, research, and interpret objects that aid us to understand our world. The ISM is an accredited museum system, and is a leader in the museum field.

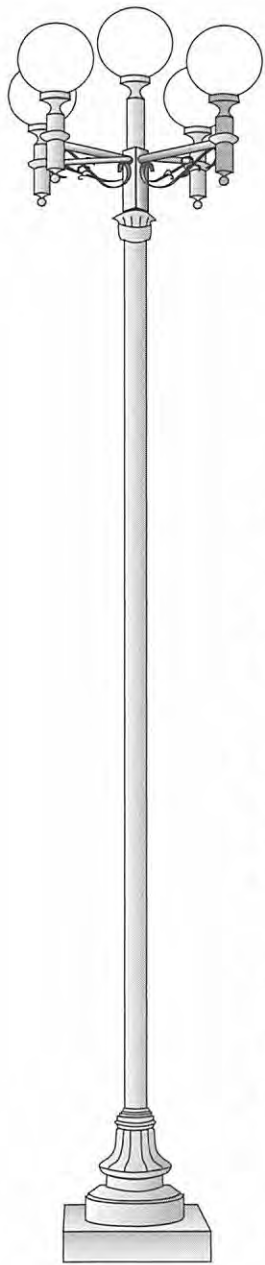
As the director of a statewide service organization for museums, I urge you not to close this valuable state asset.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

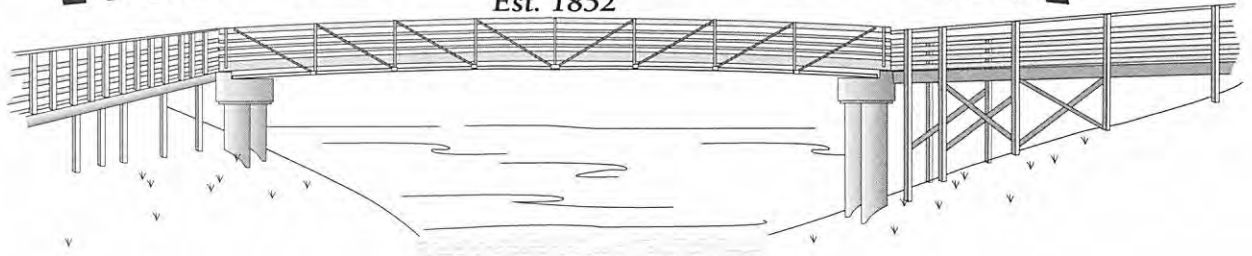
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia L. Miller".

Patricia L. Miller
Executive Director
Illinois Heritage Association



HISTORIC HAVANA

Est. 1852



To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned, would like to register our opposition to the closing of the Illinois State Museum system including its sites at Springfield, Lewistown, Lockport, Whittington and Chicago.

We believe the Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our schoolchildren, our universities, our researchers and it plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. Teachers at our schools have benefited from professional development at the museum and our students enjoy learning about our state's history through a hands-on, tangible experience.

The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in our communities and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. It would cause great economic harm to our communities, both to lose this many local jobs and to lose the tourism dollars that are the direct result of the Illinois State Museum. Further, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that the collection be open to the public.

We strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the museum open.

MAYOR
Brenda Stadsholt

CITY CLERK
Martha Balbinot

CITY ATTORNEY
Blake Lindner

CITY TREASURER
Steve Blessman

CITY ALDERMEN
Portia Brown
Robert Cooper
Randall Bell
Andrew French
Charles Campbell
James Stroh
Rebecca Chaney
Ross McDowell

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR**

Ron Hills Cell: 309-657-3256
Phone: 309-543-2492, ext. 1

E-mail: rhills@grics.net Phone: 309-543-6580 • Fax: 309-543-6633 • e-mail: havanail@grics.net • website: scenichavana.com

The Honorable Brenda Stadsholt, Mayor, City of Havana

Randall Bell, Finance Officer, City of Havana

The City Council, City of Havana

City of Havana, 227 West Main, Havana, IL 62644-1137

July 12, 2015

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Attn: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Closure of Illinois State Museum Facilities – NO!

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I am not naïve about the extreme difficulties presented by the Illinois budget crisis and I fully understand the years of near criminal culpability of the Illinois Legislature in their abject failure to manage our state's finances as their fiduciary duty to Illinois taxpayers demanded. I also understand that our current Governor, having been elected to serve his own constituency of the wealthiest 1%, plans to implement budgetary punishments far more cruel to working class and middle class residents of our state than the closure of the State Museum system. Those priorities would seem to argue against saving a seemingly non-critical service such as the Museum system during this crisis.

But having said that, I will still state the case for preserving the arts in our society, and for keeping the museums, shops, and programs operating at full strength.

In all public budget battles I've seen or participated in, the Arts always rise first to the top of the axe-worthy list. But this habit completely misunderstands the importance of the Arts in all societies from prehistoric times till now. We do not remember the names of even the most famous, or infamous, politicians or their pet programs or jihads for more than a few generations. Yet we still marvel at the millennia old cave paintings of Lascaux and continue to learn from them about our common humanity. Our human history is defined by many things including wars, plagues, and crises. Yet all of our "Golden Eras" center on the cultural achievements of each era. In fact, we define eras in many cases by the artists or movements who best represented them. The word "Shakespearian" defines not only an era, but a defining moment in the English speaking world. The "Jazz Age" derives its name from the many musicians who created America's unique sound, and who lent their energy to an entire generation of aspiring Americans.

The Arts tell us who we are, even in times when we are not at our finest. The Arts can show us meaning even in the simplest of everyday events. The Arts help us, as a society, achieve emotional maturity, without which we risk descent into the moral and ethical emptiness that has defined our darkest hours. Preserving the Arts preserves the emotional heritage we owe to succeeding generations. I know that in this time of narcissistic greed, when the callously wealthy elite routinely purchase politicians or direct political office, the needs of others, particularly those less fortunate, and the needs of succeeding generations seem unimportant. But preserving our cultural heritage for succeeding generations is, just like imparting life skills to our children, our most important duty. By eliminating the State Museum

kevinmcd@majorscale.com

KEVIN McDERMOTT

708-615-1603

system we betray this fiduciary duty and we rob our children of their inheritance. We make the state we live in less human, and we mark ourselves as Huns, destroying the civilization we purport to protect.

Sincerely,

Kevin McDermott
2127 Portsmouth Ave.
Westchester, IL 60154

Laboratory of Forest Vegetation Dynamics,
Kyoto Prefectural University
1-5 Hangi-cho, Shimogamo, Sakyo-ku
Kyoto 606-8522 JAPAN
naoko.h.sasaki@gmail.com

July 12, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Name: Naoko Sasaki
Facility being closed: Illinois State Museum
Position: Opponent of the museum closure

Dear Governor Rauner:

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. I had opportunity to visit the Museum and Research and Collection Center in Springfield in 2011, work with researchers of the museum. Researchers and staffs were really impressive and I was overwhelmed by a strong presence of the vast collections of the ISM. During my stay at the ISM-RCC, I witnessed how scientists work and connect the world of academia to regional community. Thus the ISM is ideal museum for me.

The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. Some of our important databases of Japanese plants and fossils are also maintained and updated in the System. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society.

Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

左々木 尚子

Naoko SASAKI, Ph. D.

Joint Researcher
Kyoto Prefectural University

I'm Beth Shadur, an Illinois artist who has worked with the State of Illinois for over thirty years as an artist in education for the Illinois Arts Council and as an artist with the Illinois Artisans Program. I am also a gallery director in a Chicago area college and an educator. I urge this Commission to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

My involvement with the arts over many years has proven to me the importance of the arts and culture in people's lives. I have seen the impact on the self-esteem, education and thinking skills of thousands of students with whom I have worked in the arts, and the joy brought to various citizens of the state who have been provided free access to the programs, educational opportunities, and exhibits provided by the various Illinois State Museums and sites. Closing off the opportunities for free access would create a terrible impact on school children, older students, working class citizens, and anyone who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a museum, program, or exhibit because of prohibitive pricing.

Now I wish to address the economic impact of the arts in our state. Writer Richard Florida, in his book, Rise of the Creative Class, talks about how the arts and culture sector catalyzes the economy of a region, city or state. His conclusions in his research indicate that economic vitality in a location are tremendously impacted by the arts and culture in that area. He researched the actual dollars in terms of tourism, spent by people attending art and cultural events in terms of hotels, restaurants and so on. In fact, he proved statistically that the economic impact brought to a region by the arts actually is greater than the economic impact of sports in a region. An area that has strong cultural assets attracts creative people who spend their dollars and shop in such a community. In fact, artists and other creative people who live in an area need to purchase supplies, provide for their studios and homes, and shop in the community in which they live. Most people in creative fields prefer to live in areas where the arts and culture is richly present, and historically, Illinois has been such a place.

Consider that the Illinois State Museums not only employ respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with varied specialties, but runs the Illinois Artisans program that provides opportunities for Illinois artists to gain exposure to show the rich and varied culture present in our states. The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums which supplies accreditation to fewer than 5% of museums nationally. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back. It also can mean losing artists and professionals with their creative capital and dollars spent and generated in Illinois.

More regional settings like Lockport depend on the 50,000 visitors to the museum to “keep their downtown” alive. The site of Dixon Mounds is considered of great archeological importance, and has attracted 103,000 visitors with their dollars to the area. In shutting the various Illinois State Museums sites, the state would become a state that, instead of being respected for its abundance of arts and culture, attracting skilled professionals and economic development, would become a state that shows its lack of support for the creative individuals who have created pride for Illinois as a great place to live and work. I, for one, have often told my other artist friends around the US how I live in a state that supports its artists through exhibits at the Museums, the Illinois Artisans Program, and through its wonderful Arts Council, but I will no longer be proud to call Illinois my home if the government expresses its lack of support by closing the Illinois State Museum system. Thank you.

Beth Shadur

Artist, Curator, Educator



Department of Anthropology

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Christopher I. Roos, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

CC:

The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate
The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
Tim Nuding, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate
Wayne Rosenthal, Director, Department of Natural Resources
Aaron Winters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Office of the Governor
Mike Zolnierowicz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

*Department of Anthropology
Southern Methodist University
3225 Daniel Ave., Heroy Hall Dallas, TX 75275*

Commission on
Government

Charles A. Schweighauser

47 Aspen Road

Forecasting and Accountability Pleasant Plains, Illinois 62677

Sunday, July 5, 2015

HELP! The Ship is sinking. There are several million passengers aboard, plus an elected Captain and crew. In addition, the ship carries a wide variety of cargo, including many treasures that are necessary to nourish the bodies, hearts, minds, and spirits of the ship's passengers.

For example, some of the treasures aboard the ship take care of the chronically-ill passengers, both children and adults. Other treasures take care of those passengers who can't take care of themselves, while other treasures educate and train passengers who are then able to educate the rest of the ship's

- 2 -

complement of human beings,
enriching the lives of everyone
on board.

What to do to save the ship
and its precious cargo of passengers
and treasures?

There are many ways that the
captain, crew, and passengers
have proposed. Following are
just a few that have been
put forth:

1) Throw overboard all
those passengers who can't
take care of themselves, assuming
that a few of them will be able
to swim by themselves.

2) Throw everyone overboard,
but then what do we have a
ship for? and why should we
try to save it?

3) Throw everyone overboard
but a few passengers; but, again,
what do we have a ship for?

4) Find the leak and try to patch it temporarily until the ship arrives at some far distant, unknown, and unrecognizable port.

5) Perhaps the ship wouldn't sink so fast if its load were lightened, so instead of throwing passengers overboard, throw some of the treasures into the sea. After all, many of them are quite weighty and their absence might even allow the ship's leak to rise above the water line. The leak will not have been fixed but at least the ship isn't sinking any more.

6) In addition to the heavier treasures, also throw a lot of the lighter ^{ones} overboard.

If enough lighter ones are
thrown away, they may equal
the weight of a heavy treasure.

But wait a minute.
Who made the assumption
that the importance of a
treasure is based on its weight?

A light treasure may be just as
important as a weighty one.

For example, each passenger's
brain weighs only about three
pounds, but ^{can} be cultivated,
stimulated, trained, encouraged,
excited, enlarged, and guided
into productive activities that
help all passengers by a
relatively light treasure chest
full of stunning jewels.

Hundreds of thousands of
passengers - children and adults -

have opened The Treasure Chest known as The Illinois State Museum system. The treasures in our museum include: collections of Illinois artifacts that are the envy of every other ship; - brilliantly conceived and executed exhibits that tell the history of our ship; - cleverly designed educational programs for passengers of all ages; expertise in every aspect of our ship's construction, history, rigging, and cargo - from art to zoology; and ~~a~~ world-class scientists who study and enhance the knowledge of all parts of our ship in order that all

its passengers can enlarge their knowledge of the ship. The more that passengers know about the ship, the more they will appreciate it, care for it, and cherish it. They might even find a permanent fix for the leak.

Perhaps this last idea is the best of all. Instead of throwing people and treasures overboard, find the leak and make a permanent repair. In this way, all the passengers will be saved, together with the treasure chests, the big, heavy ones and the smaller, lighter ones, all of which enrich

-7-

Then cargo and therefore the
passengers of our ship.

Charles A. Schweighauser

Cc. Mr. Guery Suggs
Chairman, Illinois State
Museum Board of Trustees

Bonnie Styles, Ph.D
Director, Illinois State
Museum

June 30, 2015

To:
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

From:
Richard W. Lariviere
President and CEO

Museums of the quality of the Illinois State Museum are rare and valuable. I understand—very well—the fiscal challenges with which you are dealing. Please don't close the Illinois State Museum. It is an important institution and deserves to continue to serve the State.

Aside from the hundreds of thousands of annual visitors each year, the Illinois State Museum holds irreplaceable collections that continue to inform us of the history and evolution of the land, its flora and fauna, and the people of Illinois. There are measures of economy that are repairable and some that are not. The collections of the Museum require sophisticated maintenance. Not providing that maintenance will cause lasting and irreparable harm.

Please keep the Museum open and preserve the history of Illinois.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Lariviere, Ph.D.

Name: Robert Clark

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum

Position: Opposed

Type of Testimony: Written Statement

As a volunteer docent in the Changes exhibit, I tell visitors about 500 hundred million years of Illinois history and explain the science underlying the exhibit. In that role, I have met thousands of people but not one who disliked or was dismissive of the museum. Local people, people from throughout Illinois and around the world are impressed with the quality of the Illinois State Museum. I meet many people from out-of-state who return often to the museum or whose reason for visiting Illinois is to see the museum. I speak with hundreds of students who discover, at the museum, that Illinois isn't as boring as they thought and that science is interesting after all.

The museum is a repository of knowledge. It secures and protects things deemed important for our state, country and society. Where else can you see and touch rare fossilized remains of creatures and plants that disappeared hundreds of millions years ago? Where can you see the lifestyles of people who came to Illinois 12,000 years before you? Where can you discover the best in the decorative arts? Where can young children have the pleasure of digging in the dirt for buried archaeological treasures, of assembling the skeleton of a mammoth, of discovering other things about the world around us? Those treasures and many more are held safe at the Illinois State Museum.

The museum is a center of learning for families. It is especially important for working families because it is one of the few places that they can afford for a family outing. Parents and children both discover that Illinois has taken many forms, from the bottom of a topical sea, to a frozen world, to Indian villages, to the farm fields and cities of today. A frequent comment from parents and children alike is "I didn't know that." They begin to understand that what Illinois is today flows from its past.

What the visitors see is, of course, a very small part of the museum. Museum exhibits are possible because of the dedicated researchers who uncover the knowledge necessary to understand and present information about the past and the world in which we live. Be it ancient pollen or people of the past, the curators and researchers at the Illinois State Museum are recognized throughout the country for the excellence of their work. Closing the museum would not only destroy current projects but also would cause Illinois to lose the knowledge, experience and expertise of museum staff, qualities not easily replaced.

The Illinois State Museum is a treasure. It should not be shuttered.

1400 Bates Avenue
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 546-2735

Commission on Government Forecasting
and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission:

For 138 years the Illinois State Museum has been a guardian of the natural and cultural heritage of Illinois. It has been a source for study and scholarship. It is free and open to the public. People can study everything from geological, botanic and zoological artifacts to cultural artifacts from settlements centuries before Europeans set foot in Illinois; from lifestyles and crafts of settlers 200 years ago to contemporary art.

Children are intrigued by the dioramas and they spend hours in the wonderful "play" museum, learning as they play.

The museum's budget of 6.3 million is less than 1% of the total State budget. The museum brings in about 17 million in tourist money.

The museum staff is highly regarded nationally, even internationally. The museum is one of only 5% of museums nationwide with national accreditation. This would be lost if the museum closed. The staff would doubtless be scattered. It would be nearly impossible to reassemble as fine a staff upon reopening. It would take years to achieve accreditation again.

In 1877 the museum founders saw the value and importance of preserving the natural and cultural history of our State. Surely that mission is equally vital now and to pass on to future generations.

Please do not let the museum be closed!

Respectfully,



Phyllis H. Brissenden
(Mrs. Walter F. Brissenden)

1440 N. Glenn Ave.
Springfield, Ill. 62704

Dear Commissioner,

I am very disappointed that you are closing the Illinois State Museum. I am a member of the Illinois State Museum Society. I enjoy their archeology lectures and trips very much. I know that many children enjoy the educational programs at the museum. Tourists also visit the museum.

I am very grateful for all the very smart people who work at the museum. They are very dedicated. And they are taking care of the many priceless artifacts that are at the museum. What will become of them?

If you close the museum now, you will just have to open it up again later, and that will result in a much higher cost than if you had left it open.

Thank you.

Nancy Junker
OPPONENT OF
CLOSING THE
ILLINOIS STATE
MUSEUM

WRITTEN STATEMENT FILED

July 8, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 10956 N Dickson Mounds Rd, Lewistown, IL 61542

Comments by: Ray Riekema 48 W Locust St Canton IL, 61520

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System - Dickson Mounds Museum

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a citizen, business owner in Fulton County, I was transplanted here from Peoria County in 1976.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below: **I can still remember taking a field trip**

When I was in the 4th grade, Going from Bartonville IL to Dixon Mounds and how it impressed upon me the history and made me envision what this area was like long before any settlers took over.

I always recommend anybody visiting the area to go and spend a few hours, guaranteeing that it will be worth their while.

If you haven't had the opportunity to see in person, you would enjoy it.

This area of the State has already taken a beating with International Harvester and the Coal Mines leaving the area. We need to keep what we can.

Thanks,



Ray Riekema

309-647-6180

July 8, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 10956 N Dickson Mounds Rd, Lewistown, IL 61542

Comments by: *Joy Taylor, 15985 North Turner Road Lewistown IL 61542*

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System - Dickson Mounds Museum

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a Life long Resident of Fulton County. The Dickson Mound Museum has been a part of that life, though trips there with Family and Friends. Fieldtrips through School.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

Museums hold our history, all History World, State, Past and Present. How can we possibly cheat citizens and their children our future adults of Illinois out of this experience. We the people for the people by the people RIGHT! We need to move forward and stop regressing .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joy Taylor RN". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "T".

July 8, 2015

Comm. on Gov't Forecasting & Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Bldg.
Springfield, Il. 62706

RE: Closing of the State's five Museums.

To whom it may concern;

I was very disturbed this week, when I was informed of the possible closing of the five State Museum facilities in Illinois. I hope that the Commission, will take very serious consideration how this would impact the general public, both as wonderful attractions, as well as education in many areas, both at the Main Museum and at Dickson Mounds.

I well know the value of these Museums. I was the photographer for these facilities for twenty eight years. I photographed many thousands of artifacts, art works, collections, and public events at all of these facilities. I know very well how the public enjoyed these facilities, and made use of them. Many of these fine pieces of art were loaned to other State buildings to adorn the walls, as the public were touring the other State buildings.

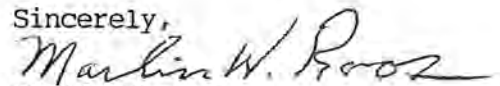
For many years, the State Museum has been used as a football, everytime there.. was a short-fall of funds in the State coffers, the Museum was looked on to cut back. The headcount has been falling for years, but the same amount of output was expected. I retired eighteen years ago, and when I retired, the head count was about what it was when I started in 1988.

I also want to commend the Ill. State Museum Society, for the outstanding job they have done over the years, in overseeing the operations of the five Museums, and making sure that the funds and appropriations were used properly, and that wise decisions were made. If other areas of the State would have been of their equal, Illinois would not have been in this mess.

I am sure that there are other areas in the State , that the Commission can find to cut, that wont impact the public and the schools, as it would to cut in this area.

I hope that your Commission will seriously not adopt this action.

Sincerely,



Marlin W. Roos
429 Ottawa St.
Lincoln, Il. 62656

July 10, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability
Attn: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

To Whom It May Concern:

The Illinois State Museum is an important part of the Springfield community and enhances our local economy. The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is concerned about the economic impact on our community if the State Museum is closed.

Springfield and Sangamon County residents who work for the State of Illinois are already worried about their paychecks and will no doubt start cutting back on spending which will reduce economic activity in our local economy. Shutting down one of our larger tourist attractions will further reduce spending in our community hurting our local businesses and working families that support them.

We appreciate that you are working to ensure the State workforce is paid on time and that no paychecks are missed. We also hope you will consider the impact on our local economy before closing tourist attractions in Springfield during this difficult time for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Hembrough
President & CEO
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commissioners:

Name: Linda R. Green
Facility being closed: Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL
Type of Testimony: Written statement filed; email confirmation
My Position: Opponent

The Illinois State Museum is an educational institution with a long standing history in our capital city. Closing the museum would have a negative impact on the city of Springfield, the capitol complex as well as the entire state. The museum is visited by thousands each year, bringing revenue to Springfield. As a former state employee who worked in the Howlett Building, directly east of the museum, I witnessed many busloads of students and visitors to the museum, especially in the summer months.

Preserving the history of our state is very important and compared to other state programs and agencies, the museum has a very small budget impact. It seems ridiculous to close the museum to save the state of Illinois \$4.8 million a year in operating costs for a facility that the Illinois Office of Tourism says generates an estimated \$33 million in visitor spending throughout the state each year. Please make sure the museum stays open for the good of our state.

Thank you.

Linda R. Green
422 East 450 North Road
Morrisonville, IL 62546
lgreen67@consolidated.net

July 10, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy in Illinois, I would like to express concern regarding the potential closing of Dickson Mounds State Museum that was announced last month. We understand tough decisions must be made during these fiscally challenging times, but hope you consider the full value of this state resource.

With 35,000 members in Illinois and over 1 million members worldwide, The Nature Conservancy is the largest private, member-supported conservation organization, with programs in all 50 states and 35 countries. Our mission is conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. We own and operate our 6600-acre Emiquon Preserve along the Illinois River in Fulton County, and are fortunate to have Dickson Mounds State Museum as a neighbor and valued partner.

Illinois has cultural and archeological resources that stretch throughout the Illinois River Valley. Staff archeologists from the museum are often the first point of contact for landowners with cultural resources on their property, providing them council for appropriate stewardship. The museum's Native American artifacts collection is used by researchers around the world and is paramount to our understanding of pre-settlement conditions in Illinois. Museum programming provides unique opportunities for visitors of all ages to hear about the 600 generations of Native Americans that utilized Emiquon and how the phenomenal natural resources of this area sustained them. Contrary to the national trend for museums, attendance at Dickson Mounds continues to increase, surpassing fifty thousand in 2014, almost double the population of Fulton County where the museum resides.

Dickson Mounds State Museum is fundamental to the public-private partnership at Emiquon that provides services to local, state, national and international visitors as well as the partner organizations that include the University of Illinois Springfield and Urbana-Champaign, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy. The facility serves as a visitor center for the growing numbers of visitors that come to the 14,000-acre Emiquon Complex to learn and recreate annually. The Nature Conservancy provides a public fishing program at Emiquon through a Cooperative Fisheries Management Agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the museum helps us deliver that program as well as our public boating and waterfowl hunting programs. Tens of thousands of private dollars have been invested by individual donors and partners along with multiple donations of artifacts, images, and additional resources for the Emiquon exhibit at the museum, which was expected to open in September 2015.



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The Nature Conservancy in Illinois
8 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Tel (312) 580-2100
Fax (312) 346-5606

nature.org

Dickson Mounds State Museum is a critically important southern anchor for the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway, which contributes to our state's billion dollar tourism industry. Many of our small communities in the region benefit tremendously from tourism. In 2012, travel spending in Illinois generated over \$6 billion for federal, state and local governments along with supporting almost 300,000 jobs. Dickson Mounds State Museum contributes directly to this important economic engine.

Dickson Mounds State Museum contributes significantly to our understanding of our history, our management of natural resources and our quality of life in central Illinois. It cannot be overstated that the security and stewardship of this collection by appropriately trained archeologists firmly rests with the State of Illinois. Thank you for your consideration of this important facility. We hope that any negative impacts to Dickson Mounds State Museum are temporary and minimal.

Sincerely,

Ashley Maybanks
Government Relations Coordinator
The Nature Conservancy in Illinois



July 13, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Jennifer E. Gill
Superintendent

I write to you today in hopes that you will reconsider the decision to close the Illinois State Museum. As Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, and as a former teacher, principal and parent in the Springfield School District, I can attest to the fact that this would be a devastating blow to our District as well as the community of Springfield and the State of Illinois. Having a museum with exhibits rich in history, science and humanities in our state capital is a bonus for tourism and pride for our great state.

Students and families from our community have utilized the Illinois State Museum as a source of education that provides a direct connection of learning standards to real life scenarios, hands-on exploration, and the rich history of the State of Illinois. Over 40,000 students and 2,300 teachers visit the museum annually. The outstanding educational staff at the Illinois State Museum offer lesson plans and educational materials to directly support the work of Illinois educators in the classroom. Attending field trips is an important component of educating our students, and the Illinois State Museum is a preferred destination. For this resource to languish would be a shame, especially as it sits in a prime location on the campus of our state capitol.

Furthering its use, older students are allowed opportunities to participate as research assistants and volunteer docents. This museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

Finally, the Illinois State Museum facility is a destination that has run on a tight budget for some time and has done so expertly. They continue to offer high-level programming, but do so in an efficient manner. Super Saturday programs that are thematic and bring in families time and time again are often sponsored by key community businesses and organizations. It should be noted that programming is highly accessible for not only students of low-income status, but for students with disabilities as well. Free access to the events and activities that represent promising practices that help close the opportunity gap for all students would be a significant loss to external educational programming for youth.

I strongly encourage you to reconsider the closing of this ageless Springfield and State of Illinois institution and affordable, educational, and fun destination for students and families.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gill
Superintendent of Schools

Working Together to Achieve Outstanding Results

Administrative Center • 1900 West Monroe Street • Springfield, Illinois 62704-1599
217/525-3000 • FAX 217/525-3005 • TDD 217/525-3023 • www.sps186.org



July 10, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure, 703 Stratton Building, Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Dr. Daniel S. Amick, Ph.D., 1851 Sycamore St., Des Plaines, IL 60018
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System
Position: **Opposed**

I am writing to express my *strongest opposition* to the proposed closure of the **Illinois State Museum (ISM)**. As a long-term educator, researcher, and concerned citizen in the Great State of Illinois, I could not be more disappointed to imagine a situation where this *nationally recognized gem in our state* was tarnished by such a closure. My own active research program in Illinois would be greatly diminished because I rely on the ISM to carry out several essential functions of federally mandated support of cultural and natural heritage legislation. I routinely visit their research facilities and coordinate with their staff. In addition, I frequently bring students on fieldtrips to their facilities and I rely on their state-wide leadership and outreach programs. Closure of these facilities would be devastating to thousands of researchers and millions of students, citizens, and tourists. It makes no sense financially, politically, or ethically, to consider closing this institution which is internationally recognized for its contributions and achievements. My professional colleagues in the **Illinois Archaeological Survey** have already pointed out several important reasons to continue funding of this essential state institution:

- The purported \$4 million in savings is *more than offset* by the economic activity the ISM generates through tourism to the museum facilities around our great state. Visitors to the ISM spend \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. In addition, ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services; and the ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year. Thus, closing the ISM may result in a potential revenue loss of nearly \$40 million dollars to the citizens of our state. *Given its important role as a positive revenue stream, closing the ISM just does not make any economic sense!*
- In addition to tourism, these facilities provide an essential educational service as fieldtrip locations for more than 40,000 Illinois school children, many of whom become inspired by these experiences to become educators, researchers, and civic leaders. The ISM provides an opportunity for life-long learning through its exhibits and programs.
- An educated public is more likely to treat archaeological remains and historic artifacts with respect. In particular, Dickson Mounds Museum is one of the premier and longest-running archaeological museums in the country and the collections, exhibits, and programs are among the few resources citizens can learn about Native American heritage, archaeology, and the relationship between society and nature.
- Illinois has a responsibility to preserve and protect its heritage. The institution in the best position to do just that is the Illinois State Museum (ISM) through its curation of artifacts and documents, and educational exhibits and programs. The ISM is the *lawful repository* of artifacts collected on public land. If the museum were to close there would be no place to curate Native American and Historic

settler artifacts recovered while working on public land; yet *in order to receive grants*, public lands, such as forest preserve districts are often *required by state law* to perform such work.

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (fewer than 5% of museums are accredited). An external audit concluded that ISM exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back and become a *very financially costly endeavor*.
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals. They may leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their expertise. Any subsequent rehiring efforts would also be *very financially costly*, not to mention the black-eye this closure would give our state in these intellectual fields.
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and betray the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of the 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall. Given the arguments listed above, closing the ISM seems to be an arbitrary recommendation that makes very little sense and would harm our state's economy and our reputation.

For these reasons and many more, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Amick, Ph.D.
Treasurer, Illinois Archaeological Survey
Associate Professor and Engaged Learning Faculty
Loyola Faculty Scholar and Sujack Award for Teaching Excellence
Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching Freshmen

Department of Anthropology & Institute of Environmental Sustainability
Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL 60660
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Academia.edu: <http://www.luc.academia.edu/DanielAmick>

Beginning as early as the 1930s, the Illinois State Museum and a handful of Illinois Universities began conducting large-scale scientific excavations at important archaeological sites in Illinois in an effort to reconstruct the 12,000-year record of the lives and lifeways of Illinois prehistoric residents. Over 12 millennia, hundreds of thousands of prehistoric people lived and died in what we today call Illinois, leaving behind only their cemeteries, earthworks, and residential sites as a permanent record of their lives. Sadly, from the early 1800s to the present-day, many of these archaeological sites and cemeteries have been destroyed by Illinois' modern residents – both in the name of progress and for private financial gain (looting burial mounds for salable artifacts). To counteract this destructive onslaught, researchers associated with Illinois universities and the Illinois State Museum have worked tirelessly to study and to preserve some of Illinois most important archaeological treasures. These include the Cahokia site in Madison County: the largest and most complex prehistoric city in North America, and the Koster site in Greene County whose unique 30-foot-deep layered archaeological deposits are a sealed record of 7,000 years of occupation in the Illinois River Valley preceding the development of Cahokia. The Koster excavations alone, undertaken by Northwestern University and its Center for American Archaeology over a 10-year period, were funded with the aid of federal and state grants and private gifts totaling well over a million dollars. These collections were transferred to the Illinois State Museum with the aid of a \$600,000 federal matching grant to save America's prehistoric archaeological treasures.

The curated scientific and artistic treasures in the Illinois State Museum go far beyond archaeological remains: the Museum's historical, geological, botanical, zoological, and ethnographic collections are equally important resources for historical and scientific study and for museum display and interpretation. Exciting new scientific advances and analytical tools and methods are developed every year that increase the potential research and information value of these curated artifacts and collections. The ISM collections are in effect very complex "books" about the structure and complexity of our changing planet and its ecology, and

about what happened in prehistory and history. Scholars and students are continually developing better ways to “read” these material records – and to more and more accurately understand our changing world, the people and cultures that have lived here, and their artistic and spiritual contributions to history.

The fact that the Illinois State Museum has meticulously preserved these collections for nearly 150 years, made them accessible to archaeological researchers like myself for study, and regularly displayed and interpreted them for the public, are a testament to the skill and dedication of generations of ISM directors, scientific curators, and technical personnel.

In recent weeks, the tragic “collateral” scientific damage faced by regional research institutions, curation facilities, and irreplaceable scientific collections when they are caught in the path of political battles has received national attention. Please do not destroy a century and a half of ISM achievements in a stop-gap reaction to current budget problems.

Kenneth B. Farnsworth
Springfield, Illinois



James R. Spotila Ph.D.
President
Department of Biodiversity, Earth and
Environmental Science
Drexel University
3245 Chestnut St
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THE HERPETOLOGISTS' LEAGUE, Inc.
Established in 1936

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Illinois Legislature
State of Illinois
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to continue the funding for the Illinois State Museum. The over 500 professional herpetologists from the US and around the world who are members of the League are very aware of the world class distinction that the Museum has for its research and collections in the area of zoology. The over 150,000 specimens are a world treasure, a valuable resource in biodiversity, and a symbol of the commitment of Illinois to knowledge and learning. It will be a serious loss to science and the intellectual infrastructure of Illinois and the US if the research function of the museum were to cease.

In modern society the most important capital is intellectual capital. A learned society not only fosters new ideas, entrepreneurship, and the production of job creating businesses, but it also fosters equality, peace and justice. An educated society is a better society. The Illinois State Museum has been fostering the education of the people of Illinois since 1877, not only in Springfield, but also around the state. It has done so through good and bad economic times and has been a major reason why Illinois is one of the leading states in the union. The "Land of Lincoln" rightly prides itself on its enlightened citizens. Those citizens need their museum to continue to educate the next generation in science and the arts. No short-term economic crisis justifies the closing of libraries, schools, universities or museums. They are the reason why society exists. The Museum is a major intellectual resource for the state. It is also a competitive factor in recruiting educated people for high technology jobs. If Illinois becomes known as the state that closed its museum, it will be much harder for businesses to attract the highly educated workers who expect such resources to be there for their children.

Certainly the diminimus amount of funds needed from the state budget to operate the museum is more than compensated for by the grants and tourism dollars that pour into the state because of its existence. The Herpetologists League urges you to support intellectual capital in Illinois and keep the Museum open and functioning at full capacity.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James R. Spotila". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James R. Spotila, Ph.D.
President

Name: Dr. Richard B. Brugam Ph.D, 1400 Lantz Ct. Edwardsville, IL 62025

Facility being closed: Illinois State Museum

My Position: Strongly Opposed

Type of Testimony Written Statement (Below)

Email: rbrugam@charter.net

Relation to the facility: Concerned citizen

Organization: None

Title: None

Testimony:

I am writing today about Gov. Rauner's proposal to close the Illinois State Museum. I am a retired University Professor who has occasionally worked with Museum personnel and used their educational facilities. I think that is a very bad idea to close the Museum. The Museum is an important part of science and technology education in Illinois. It brings an understanding of Illinois' special and unique natural environment to the people of the state. Its programs are an important contribution to education. The Museum manages a beautiful website on Illinois Natural History and Archeology that explains the subject in simple language and pictures. The facility in Springfield is a really fine Natural History Museum that is a great resource for teaching children. My own kids were frequent visitors.

The Museum also maintains an active research program into Illinois Natural History. The ongoing research performed by the staff of the museum is a major contribution to the state and the nation. The museum's collections are a priceless resource to the state that is irreplaceable if the museum were closed. These collections are an important and unique contribution of the museum to the state. They are the physical location of the State's "Memory". Other organizations are charged with managing the State's parks and Monuments (IDNR) or with advising on the management of State Natural Resources (Illinois Natural History Survey). Only the Museum manages and interprets artefacts from the State's past. The personnel of the Museum are specially trained and tasked to use these collections to interpret State history on all time scales from geological to recent. It is an important part of what makes Illinois a nice place to live.

I agree that to solve the state's fiscal problems cuts will have to be made and an agreement between the governor and the legislature will have to be reached. The state budget is \$3 to 4 billion out of balance. The Museum has a proposed budget of \$6.8 million for next year. What's up with that? Closing the Museum will hardly impact the budget at all. The Museum represents only a small fraction of the deficit. Cuts at the Museum may be necessary, but I think that closing is a bad idea. I have a suspicion that our governor and legislature are playing politics with a precious state resource. I have also expressed my views to my state representative and senator.

Yours truly,

Richard Brugam



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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Email: mschurr@nd.edu

July 13, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Name: Mark Schurr
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum
My Position: Opponent
The type of Testimony you would like to give: Written Statement Filed
Email: mschurr@nd.edu

Dear Members of the Commission,

I was astonished to learn that the State of Illinois was considering closing the four Illinois State Museum facilities to the public. As an anthropology professor and an archaeologist who has worked in the Midwest for over 30 years, I have come to know the Illinois State Museum as one of the premier, if not THE premier museum for interpreting and presenting the prehistory, history, and natural history of Illinois and the Midwest in general. The museum has long had a strong reputation for original research, going back to the 1950s and perhaps before, a reputation that is stronger than that of any other state museum in the region. I am completely perplexed as to why the State would consider closing on of its most significant assets and a source of prestige that sets the State of Illinois apart from its neighbors.

I understand that there is a commitment to maintaining the collections, which are a unique and irreplaceable record of the natural and human history of Illinois over millennia. I worry that Illinois will lose its leadership in Midwestern archaeological research because there has been no statement of commitment to maintaining research access to the collections or to allow others to use them. For example, I have borrowed collections that were from northern Indiana that are curated at the ISM facility in Springfield. The opportunity to study those collections was essential for understanding the activities of the Middle Woodland ("Mound Builder") cultures that flourished in northeastern Illinois and adjacent parts of Indiana two millennia ago. I am very concerned that the collections will become inaccessible and be like books locked in a library that does not issue library cards. I also wonder if the impact on curating future collections has been adequately considered. For example, I am currently developing a project that will be conducted on Federal property in Illinois, and it seemed sensible to curate the materials at the ISM. I am sure

it will be possible to curate the materials at my own institution, but that would just mean that part of the State of Illinois's heritage is being maintained elsewhere, which is not desirable.

I also worry about the depth of the State's commitment to truly maintaining these irreplaceable resources gathered at great expense over many years if the public does not see them. Last summer I visited the museum at Dickson Mounds. I had never been there before and was very impressed with the quality of the exhibits and the facility. It was rainy weekday in mid-June and it seemed to me that the museum had a good flow of visitors on a day that had nothing special about it. Museums are made to be visited, visitors are their lifeblood. If you cut off that nourishment, it will only be a matter of time before your once-great museum system dwindles away to an embarrassment instead of a source of pride.

I hope the Commission will reject the proposed closures. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Schurr
Professor of Anthropology
Associate Dean for the Social Sciences and Research
College of Arts and Letters

Good afternoon. My name is Kathryn Harris and I recently retired from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library (ALPL) as the Library Services Director, a position I held since 1996. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today regarding the proposed closure of the IL State Museum. Please know that I oppose this closure.

Over the years I have had a professional and collegial relationship with not only three Museum Directors, Bruce McMillen, Ed Munyer and Bonnie Styles, but my staff and I have also worked with Museum staff as they used the collections of the IL State Historical Library, now the ALPL, to conduct research for several exhibits, including Illinois quilts, the 1908 Springfield Race Riot, "One Shot Doc", which highlighted the photographic genius of "Doc" Helm, long time photographer for the Office of the IL Secy of State, and chronicler of IL African American History. In addition, for the Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibit, the Library was a major collaborator and contributor. The staffs at the Main facility, the Research and Collections facility, as well as its satellite sites, are professionally trained in museum studies, art, paleontology, botany and other disciplines. The loss of this expertise because of its closure, and solely for state budgetary reasons, will surely be detrimental to the standing and status of the Museum in the museum world. Our Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and to achieve that status is no easy feat.

Museums, like libraries and parks, improve the quality of life for IL citizens and the thousands from other states who travel to IL to experience the exciting facilities across our State.

The ISM is among the most popular tourist attractions in Springfield and indeed across the state. It generates revenue for state coffers. Its interactive exhibits, which combine topical research and Museum Best Practices, delight, educate, and entertain children and adults alike. The Play Museum, the Saturday Summer events, the permanent exhibits, and the changing exhibits in the gallery are such that for the returning visitor, the Museum is not the same place twice.

In these days of difficult budget negotiations, I believe, as do so many others, that the closure of the ISM being used like a pawn in a chess game and its closure does little to

address the massive deficit that faces our State. I respectfully request that this action not move forward.

Thank you.

Kathryn M. Harris, MLS (Retired)

1315 East Adams/Springfield, IL 62703/ T: 217-528-4872(h)

Lincoln125@icloud.com



MUSEUMS IN THE PARK

1601 North Clark Street Chicago, Illinois 60614 312-447-0460 www.museumsinthepark.org

July 13, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

facilityclosure@ilga.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

Museums In the Park (MIP) is a consortium of the largest museums in Chicago. MIP opposes the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The closure would be a loss for the people of Illinois and also a negative in economic terms. We urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to countermand the directive from the Governor to implement this closure.

It is counterintuitive to suppose that closing the Illinois State Museum, and four related heritage sites, will save the State money. Museums by their nature are tourist attractions. Museums attract visitors to Illinois and serve as economic engines for our communities. According to the Illinois Office of Tourism, visitors to Illinois museums spend an average of \$81 a day on local businesses. Governments that support arts and cultural institutions see a return of \$7 in taxes for every \$1 appropriated. The activity of museums results in a significant positive economic impact for the community and region.

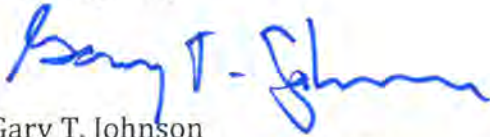
Illinois leaders have made it clear that education is a top budgetary priority, yet we are now facing the closure of the Illinois State Museum, which is a top educational facility. The Museum is a trusted source of knowledge and research, and a vital resource for Illinois teachers and students. The Museum has been the site of thousands of classroom visits and hundreds of internships.

Not only does the Museum maintain collections for both the arts and sciences, it is involved in continuing research, protecting cultural resources, and expanding knowledge in dozens of fields. Current archaeological excavations run through the ISM are important not only for the researchers conducting the studies, but also for the educational community that will share in the resulting contributions to science.

Museums play a critical role in the sharing of information, historical memory, and the preservation of important artifacts, archives, and collections. Closure of the Illinois State Museum will cause long-term and irreparable damage to the State's historic and scientific heritage and cultural economy, and the State will be poorer for it.

For the sake of future generations, please keep the Illinois State Museum open and preserve the history of Illinois.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary T. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being the most prominent.

Gary T. Johnson
President, Museums In the Park
President, Chicago History Museum



ILLINOIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

109 DAVENPORT HALL. UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
607 SOUTH MATHEWS AVENUE URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801

Cooperating Institutions:
University of Illinois
Southern Illinois University
Illinois State Museum

July 8, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield Illinois, 62706
Facility Closure-The Illinois State Museum
Opposed
Comments by: Rochelle Lurie, Ph.D., RPA
President, Illinois Archaeological Survey
President, Midwest Archaeological Research Services, Inc.

On behalf of the Illinois Archaeological Survey, the organization of Illinois professional archaeologists, I strongly oppose closure of the Illinois State Museum. It is clear to me that closing the museum deprives the residents of Illinois access to their natural and cultural heritage that is so well curated, displayed, and interpreted by the museum's dedicated staff. Closing also denies local, national, and international researchers the opportunity to work with priceless collections and to work with the highly regarded museum staff considered experts in their fields. Finally, closing violates many of the museum's legal obligations and may result in fines, lawsuits, and unintended project delays for Illinois businesses. Closing the museum would be far more costly than the current operating budget.

Elementary through university level students, their teachers and professors, parents and their children, all curious citizens of Illinois and those visiting from other states currently access the museum's excellent displays and programs at no cost, providing an educational experience that cannot be duplicated in any other way. Museum programs encourage life-long learning and engender a sense of pride in our state and our heritage. Dickson Mounds, for example, is one of the premier and longest-running archaeological museums in the country. Using a multidisciplinary approach, its collections, exhibits, and programs inform visitors about Native American heritage, archaeology, and the relationship between society and nature.

An educated public is prized for its increased value in the workplace and participation in civic governance. But of particular importance to the archaeological community, an educated public is more apt to treat history with respect--be less apt to loot sites (especially cemeteries), and more likely to report new sites to professional archaeologists, thereby increasing knowledge about our cultural heritage.

The museum is the lawful repository of artifacts collected on Illinois public land. If the museum were to close its doors, there would be no place to curate artifacts recovered while working on these properties. Yet in order to develop these lands for recreation or to implement plans for ecological restoration forest preserve districts, conservation districts, and municipalities are often required by law to survey their land and if archaeological sites are found and cannot be preserved, archaeologist may have to test and possibly mitigate damage to them. Where will artifacts from public land projects be curated if the museum is closed; will all work on public land be abandoned?

The museum holds collections in trust for various entities--other states, the National Park Service, Native American tribes, universities, and individuals. Closing the museum would violate these trust arrangements and the state may be subject to fines or costly lawsuits. For example, the Native American Graves Protection Act requires museums to curate Indian artifacts and provide access to tribes claiming an association with them; the inability to provide that access may result in the payment a heavy fine. If the museum is closed what will happen to these collections? If these items need to be returned, who will bear the cost? Even a temporary museum closing will cause other institutions and individuals to think twice about entrusting their collections or treasured possessions to the facility, and museum employees who are well-respected scholars and museum curators, will leave for jobs elsewhere taking with them knowledge of the museum collections that will be difficult to replace.

The museum staff is also responsible for managing the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites currently containing over 63,000 registered sites in Illinois. Making sure that the site files are up to date, correct, and accessible is of great importance to agencies or municipalities that want to plan for development while preserving archaeological resources, and to archaeologists conducting cultural resource management projects for highway and utility corridors, industrial parks, small businesses, and large and small residential developments. The files provide the necessary contexts for these projects and if sites are found during surveys, site forms are sent to the Illinois State Museum for official site numbers. Without the proper background and without official site numbers, federal and state reviewing agencies may reject project reports causing construction delays and an increase in the cost of development. If Illinois wants to attract responsible businesses, maintenance of the site file by the museum staff is a must.

The proposed 4 to 5 million dollar savings Governor Rauner imagines from closing the museum is more than offset by lost educational opportunities, lost tourist spending, potential expensive fines and lawsuits, the unintended delays for businesses, the loss of valuable museum personnel, and the loss of confidence in the State of Illinois to live up to its obligations. Closing the Illinois State Museum is ill-conceived and should not be approved. Thank you for considering these remarks.

Rochelle Lurie
President, Illinois Archaeological Survey
Survey web page:<http://ilarchsurv.org>
rlurie200@gmail.com

14 July 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: William Parashar Nanavati, M.A.
4245 Monroe St. Unit D
Bozeman, MT, 59718

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

To Whom It May Concern:

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum System (ISMS).

Speaking as a recent transplant from Springfield, Illinois, a doctoral student, and a scientist, I am awestruck by the threats to close the ISMS. The ISMS educated, entertained, and inspired me to become the person that I am today. Some of my earliest and fondest memories are from my Butler Elementary School field trips through the ISMS. The ISMS has long provided a resource for teachers throughout Illinois to foster a greater knowledgebase about who we are and what came before us. As a past volunteer intern for the ISMS Botany and Landscape History Section, the ISMS staff and researchers cared for me as one of their own and taught me everything I need to know to become a successful academic.

Publications regarding the potential closure of the ISMS have received global readership and opposition through such sources as American Association for the Advancement of Science. Past and on-going ISMS projects – largely federally funded – greatly influence local, national, and global scientific thought. The potential closure of the ISMS and loss of its personnel would result in not just a local “brain drain,” but also an affront to the global scientific community.

Sincerely,
William P. Nanavati, M.A.
Ph.D. Student and Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Earth Sciences
Montana State University
Bozeman, Montana

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner and the Illinois Legislator,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum. As a lifelong resident of the Springfield area, I have very fond memories of going to the museum as a child. Growing up, trips to the museum always included time in the Children's Discovery room learning about Illinois fossils and learning how Native Americans ground corn. Another highlight for me was spending Saturday afternoons learning while having fun during the museum's Super Saturdays. As I got older, I enjoyed class trips to Dickson Mounds to learn about Native Americans in Illinois and overnight camp-ins at the museum. These experiences allowed me to further develop my desire to learn and my love of history. I am saddened by the thought that other children might not get to experience the wonders of the museum, as I did.

My passion for learning and history led me to pursue a career in education. As an educator the Illinois State Museum is an invaluable resource. The museum offers a place where students of all ages can engage in hands on learning about the rich history of Illinois. The museum's resources can be used to supplement classroom learning and educators can gather information to bring back to their classrooms. Not only have I worked in classrooms that have visited the museum, I am also a former Illinois State Museum Monticello Intern in Education.

As an education intern, I was in charge of the museum's Super Saturday events. Every month was a different topic covering everything from bees and sharks to Illinois prairies and famous artists. I developed games, art projects, and other activities to engage families about the different topics. I also helped with the planning and implementation of other family events put on by the education department. All these events are free, open to the public, and a great way for families to spend a Saturday, learning and springing time together. Many of the same families came to the different events every month, often times bringing new families with them, introducing them to all the wonders of the museum.

Another wonderful part of the museum is the children's Play Museum. The Play Museum is a place where children can explore and let their imaginations run wild. The space allows for children to discover what the larger museum does as well as learn about Illinois. As first a volunteer and later as an intern, I enjoyed seeing the looks on children's faces as they came into the Play Museum and discovered they could play with everything in the room. On any given day, one can find children taking camping trips in the jungle while riding in the jeep, reading

about farming in the library, or examining fossils under the microscope. My favorite memory as a Monticello Intern was overhearing a little boy tell his mom that “(the museum) is my favorite place.” As an educator it cannot get better than that.

The closer of the Illinois State Museum would be a great loss to the people of Illinois. Children would lose a place of discovery, educators would lose a wonderful learning extension to their classroom, and families would miss the opportunity of learning and making memories together.

Sincerely,
Sarah Davis

July 13, 2015

[Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability](#)

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Lee Ann Korzeniewsk 9251 Blaine Street, Crown Point, IN 46307

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a parent of a student, Patricia Korzeniewski, who is currently in an internship at the Dickson Mounds in Lewistown, Ill of the Illinois State Museum System. She is currently working towards a Master's Degree at Valparaiso University. I had the pleasure of visiting this unique museum with my daughter, while she was in her undergraduate program, and was impressed with the staff and all the facility has to offer to the local community and visitors. This trip inspired in my daughter a dedication to preserving the heritage of the First Americans. The Dickson Mounds staff agreed to assist my daughter, Patricia, in learning the skills she needs in her desired vocation as an archaeologist. She has been interning at this facility since February and intends to conduct her own research at a local site under their astute guidance and supervision. She has shared with me how grateful she is for this opportunity and has commended the staff at this facility for their knowledge and dedication. She has also shared how much this facility is valued by their local community for their outreach programs from tots to seniors. This is an invaluable resource to this poor, rural area providing education to school groups, as well.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.

-

- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
-
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
-
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM’s unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
-
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.
-
- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

YOUTH EDUCATION

- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts “Saturplay,” a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM’s summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.
-

- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.
-
- Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

NUMBERS

- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.
Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors Dickson Mounds in Lewistown: 50,000 visitors Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors Southern Illinois Art Gallery near Sesser: 18,000 visitors Springfield: 200,000 visitors
- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.
-
- ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.
-
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lee Ann Korzeniewski



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

July 13, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure—703 Stratton Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706

Comments by: Michael K. Trimble, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am the director of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archeological Collections. I have worked closely with ISM's archaeological curator and staff for the past 25+ years to ensure that the St. Louis District archaeological collections at ISM have the best care possible, which they do. I have concerns that if this facility is closed the District's collections will be more susceptible to damage and loss because of the lack of consistent environmental, pest, and security monitoring. Because of this I strongly oppose closing the ISM. Additionally, I offer a few more specific reasons for why I oppose this closure.

- Based on my personal experience, which is shared by a number of curation professionals nationally, ISM is regarded as one of the top five curatorial facilities in the nation. Excellence should be rewarded not punished.
- ISM curates 972 boxes of St. Louis District archaeological collections from Illinois sites and 1628 boxes from Missouri sites, and these include Native American human remains, unassociated and associated funerary objects, and sacred objects.
- ISM also curates additional USACE collections from USACE's Chicago, Rock Island, and Kansas City districts.
- ISM meets or exceeds Federal standards for curation and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (less than five percent of all museums in the country are accredited by AAM). These standards and accreditation will be jeopardized by the closing of ISM, and if they lose accreditation it may take years to get it back.

- For more than two decades, the St. Louis District has maintained a contract with ISM for the annual maintenance of the District's archaeological collections and associated project documentation from Illinois and Missouri archaeological projects. This contract dictates that ISM provides access to the District's collections to researchers, the public, and federally recognized Native American tribes. A closed facility severely limits the District's ability to allow public access to its collections, which is required by law and regulation.
- A number of archaeological artifacts are loaned for exhibition at various USACE visitor/interpretive centers in Illinois and Missouri. Closure of ISM will require these items to be returned to the museum so they can be put back into proper storage.
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. Closure of ISM will require some of them to find work at other museums, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Trimble, Ph.D., Director
Mandatory Center of Expertise
for the Curation and Management
of Archaeological Collections



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

July 13, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure—703 Stratton Building, Springfield, Illinois 62706

Comments by: Christopher B. Pulliam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an archaeologist/cultural resources manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District, and the assistant director of USACE's Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archeological Collections. I have worked closely with ISM's archaeological curator and staff for the past 22+ years to ensure that the St. Louis District archaeological collections at ISM have the best care possible, which they do. I have concerns that if this facility is closed the District's collections will be more susceptible to damage and loss because of the lack of consistent environmental, pest, and security monitoring. Because of this I strongly oppose closing the ISM. Additionally, I offer a few more specific reasons for why I oppose this closure.

- ISM curates 972 boxes of St. Louis District archaeological collections from Illinois sites and 1628 boxes from Missouri sites, and these include some Native American human remains.
- ISM also curates additional USACE collections from USACE's Chicago, Rock Island, and Kansas City districts.
- ISM meets or exceeds Federal standards for curation and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (less than five percent of all museums in the country are accredited by AAM). These standards and accreditation will be jeopardized by the closing of ISM, and if they lose accreditation it may take years to get it back.
- The St. Louis District has maintained a contract with ISM, for more than two decades, for the annual maintenance of the District's archaeological collections and associated project documentation from Illinois and Missouri archaeological projects. This contract dictates that ISM provides access to the District's collections to researchers, the public, and federally

recognized Native American tribes. A closed facility severely limits the District's ability to allow public access to its collections, which is required by law and regulation.

- A number of archaeological artifacts are loaned for exhibition at various USACE visitor/interpretive centers in Illinois and Missouri. Closure of ISM will require that these items be returned to the museum so they can be put back into proper storage.
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. Closure of ISM will require some of them to find work at other museums, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chris Pulliam". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Chris Pulliam, Assistant Director
Mandatory Center of Expertise
for the Curation and Management
of Archaeological Collections

Mary Jo Potter

Illinois State Museum

Opposed to closure

mjp@walnutbirch.com

Senator Trotter

Representative Moffitt

Commission Members

Since the Illinois Legislature founded the State Museum in 1877, people have entrusted more than thirteen and a half million objects, art, and artifacts to the Museum for preservation, research and education. The Museum uses many of those items in interactive award-winning exhibits. For instance, Changes: Dynamic Illinois Environments, uses items from our collection to demonstrate how Illinois' environment was in the past and how it continually evolves. **A closure violates the trust people have placed in the Museum by donating their important pieces of Illinois' history.**

A closure deprives the 380,000 annual visitors including over 40,000 students from exploring our exhibits and resources. We also have over one and a half million virtual visitors to our website yearly seeking information about our history, culture and research as well as educational materials for students. Our visitors, whether in person or on the web, want to know and explore Illinois' legacy. There is **no alternative** providing this unique view of Illinois. **Closing the Museum is not an option!**

Projections forecast an annual loss of 33 million dollars in expenditures by visitors in communities with Museum facilities, with 17 million of that in Springfield alone*. How does a possible 4.8 million dollar annual savings justify the loss of 33 million? **A closure of the Museum makes neither cents nor sense.**

The Illinois State Museum System is recognized by the American Alliance of Museums for achieving the highest standards of excellence for education, exhibits and research. Our staff is nationally known among museum professionals for outstanding leadership in their fields. Our director is respected as a mentor among her peers. We are a living museum with many interconnected parts dedicated to telling the whole, rich story of Illinois. To paraphrase a nursery rhyme--- it's easy to knock Humpty Dumpty off the wall, but no one can predict the cost of putting him back together again--- not in dollars, not in

human capital. Closing the Museum jeopardizes one of the finest museums of its kind in Illinois.

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you.

I ask for your vote to prevent the Museum from being closed.

Mary Jo Potter

*Illinois Office of Tourism estimate of visitor spending



Bergen, 16. July 2015

Governor Bruce Rauner
207 State House
Springfield
Illinois 62706
USA

Dear Governor Rauner,

Illinois State Museum

I write to express my very deep concern about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum system. The ISM system is an internationally recognised museum system with a strong and well-deserved reputation for its scientific excellence, its outstanding curation of scientific, historical, and cultural objects, and its impressive outreach and educational activities.

My main connection with ISM is through Dr Eric C Grimm, Director of Science. I have known Eric since he was a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota in the late 1970s. He was a post-doctoral fellow with me at the University of Cambridge (UK) in 1981–1982. We have retained close scientific contact and I was delighted to nominate him in 2012 for an Outstanding Service Award given by the International Paleolimnology Association for his outstanding service to the international research community. I was even more delighted when Eric was awarded this prestigious award.

Eric and the ISM play a very major role in global environmental change research through the outstanding creation and curation of major national and international databases of fossil plant and animal records. With increasing concern about global change, these databases are playing an ever more important role in global-change science as the fossil records provide unique information about baseline conditions, natural environmental variability, species extinctions, and biological changes.

If ISM was to be closed, the people of the State of Illinois and of the international research community would all suffer by the loss of this very special and important museum system.

Yours sincerely,

John Birks
Professor Emeritus, University of Bergen
Professor Emeritus and Honorary Fellow, University College London
Emeritus Distinguished Visiting Fellow, University of Oxford
Fellow of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letter and of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

CC:

The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate
The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
Tim Nuding, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate
Wayne Rosenthal, Director, Department of Natural Resources
Aaron Winters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Office of the Governor
Mike Zolnierowicz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

July 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed shutdown of the Illinois State Museum and related institutions is very problematic. The state has over \$4 billion in debt, yet the cost of the museums and other cultural institutions cost slightly less than \$5 million. That is an eighth of a percent (0.125%) of Illinois' total debt—less than a drop in the bucket!

Placing three people in charge of maintenance for 13.5 million objects at the Illinois State Museum as planned would lead to a variety of disasters. First, with each person in charge of 4.5 million objects, these materials would certainly deteriorate. This is bad enough, but if you were not aware, some of the materials stored in the museum are human remains, and allowing these to fall under less than proper care would be atrociously disrespectful.

Second, interactions with Native American groups regarding museum materials are a process that continues to this day—with each of the three employees caring for 4.5 million objects, how could they provide the proper attention to partnerships with Native American groups?

Third, federal law requires that all federally funded construction projects perform a cultural impact assessment, which often results in archaeological work by companies called cultural resource management (CRM) firms. A state museum is necessary for the curation of many of the objects that result from CRM work. Without a well-staffed and well-funded museum, cultural resource management firms will have issues with their work, causing federally funded projects to hit snarls. Clearly, the plan to shut down the museums not only saves very little money for the state in the first place, but may cost it money later as well. The loss of the museum jobs will be compounded by a loss of construction and CRM work.

Obviously, the miniscule savings that would be gained with the shutdown are far outweighed by the many types of damage it would cause. I urge you to consider other options than a shutdown. The shutdown of Illinois' cultural heritage institutions would shame Illinois in front of the nation and the rest of the world.

Sincerely,

Katherine M. Lacy

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Name: Susan Perry
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System
Your Position: Opponent
Written Statement Filed
Email: sperry@semcdirect.net

Dear Commission:

We are writing as leaders of the undersigned Regional Museum Associations, representing more than 30,000 museums and their communities across the United States, to express our concern at the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

As we are sure you know, these museums serve many critical functions to the citizens of Illinois. In addition to the money that is put into the local and state economy through employment, purchasing, educational services and tourism, the State Museums also demonstrate the commitment that state government makes to the quality of life of its citizens. State Museums serve as trusted sources of knowledge and research, vital resources for teachers and students, and the repository of the Illinois's cultural and historical memory.

From our experience in each of the states represented in our regions, we know how important State Museums are to the health of our other museums and their communities, providing leadership, practical assistance and inspiration to their colleagues.

We very much hope that you will be able to work with the American Alliance of Museums, the Midwest Museum Association and the Illinois Association of Museums to find ways to keep the Illinois State Museum System open and fully operational for the benefit of the citizens of Illinois and beyond.

Sincerely,



Donna Sack
Executive Director
Association of Midwest Museums



Gretchen Sorin

Gretchen Sorin
President
Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums



Monta Lee Dakin

Monta Lee Dakin
Executive Director
Mountain-Plains Museums Association



Dan Yaeger
Executive Director
New England Museum Association



Susan Perry

Susan Perry
Executive Director
Southeastern Museums Association





Jason Jones
Executive Director
Western Museums Association



Western
Museums
Association

I am Dr. Judith A. Schiebout, a geologist on the faculty at Louisiana State University for 39 years. Great museums like the Illinois State Museum make a life-long difference in many of their visitors. There is disparity in preparedness in college freshmen who have had a chance to visit museums and those which have not. Likewise, quite a few of my colleague researcher/teachers became interested in their current fields through museum visits. I am a scientist because of visits to the Denver Museum of Natural History (Now the Denver Museum of Nature and Science).

The Illinois State Museum holds your State's scientific, historical and educational treasures, and maintenance of these at an accreditable level will end if the museum is closed. Whatever the plan may be for the collections and displays, getting the museum even to back to it's current state, will be difficult. Other states are building fine new museums while this situation happens in Illinois. An example is the new Utah Museum of Natural History (<https://nhmu.utah.edu/>).

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History became Oklahoma's best new tourist attraction the year it opened its doors. It continues to boost the economy of its region. Likewise, museums attract new residents and businesses, because they enhance the quality of life in a region. I hope that you can find ways to save your great museum.

Name: George R Milner
Position: Opponent of Closure
Type of Testimony: Written Statement Filed
Email: grmilner@gmail.com

I am writing in support of the Illinois State Museum (ISM), specifically to add my voice to those who see great value in keeping the exhibits open to the public and in maintaining its active research and collections management functions. That is, I strongly oppose closure of the ISM.

Although no longer a state resident, I have considerable familiarity with the ISM, going back several decades. I lived in Illinois for many years, during which time I earned my advanced degrees at one of the state's universities (MA and PhD). Since then, I have continued to enjoy the museum's exhibits at the main facility in Springfield as well as Dickson Mounds, even planning family vacations to visit these two museums. I have also maintained frequent collaborations with the museum's scientific staff and made use of the internationally recognized research collections. Having had an opportunity to visit and work at many museums around the world, I regard the ISM as among the very best.

The state has a real gem in the ISM that increases awareness of the rich natural and cultural heritage of Illinois. I still remember my first visit to the museum 50 years ago, and it continues to excite interest whenever I have a chance to go there. The main building in Springfield is admirably located for tourists who come to visit the capitol complex, as well as the Lincoln sights. As such, I am sure it increases the number and duration of visits by tourists. It was, in fact, one of the principal reasons I took my family to Springfield several years ago when touring the Midwest. The Dickson Mounds branch is well positioned to augment the highly successful federal, state, and non-profit (Nature Conservancy) collaboration to re-establish a floodplain ecosystem in the Illinois River valley. It does so through engaging public exhibits that highlight a long history of human use of the exceedingly rich and diverse plant and animal communities.

As far as the ISM's research collections and facilities are concerned, they are absolutely first rate and attract attention by scientists from the United States and overseas. I have used the collections extensively, and find myself in the position of frequently recommending the ISM to both American and European scientists because of the variety and depth of its collections. In fact, I can think of only one other state museum that is arguably its equal (I'm being charitable because I think the ISM is by far the best museum of its kind).

The combination of outstanding exhibits and world-class research collections makes the ISM a major attraction for the general public and scientists. As such, it shows Illinois (as well as Springfield) off to good advantage. A reputation for excellence earned over many decades should not be squandered for short-term reasons. The ISM is a treasure that the state of Illinois can justifiably be proud of.



Written Testimony from Arts Alliance Illinois
Opposing the Closure of Illinois State Museums
To the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
July 15, 2015

Thank you for holding Monday's hearing about the closure of the Illinois State Museum System. For your consideration, here is a written version of the testimony we provided:

On behalf of our statewide network of over 25,000 Illinois residents and cultural organizations, Arts Alliance Illinois respectfully submits to the Commission testimony *opposing* the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum and its branch facilities. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

The Illinois State Museum is a nationally accredited and internationally renowned institution that contributes greatly to our state's economy and cultural heritage. Closing the state museum system makes no economic sense. If the State shuttered the museums, the \$33 million in economic impact they generate annually will disappear, taking jobs with it. The museum system will lay off 68 workers. Employees of local restaurants, hotels, retail stores, and other businesses that rely on museum and museum visitor spending will be negatively impacted.

Closing the museum system will reduce tourism, one of our state's leading growth industries. Museums are the top reason tourists visit Illinois, and our state museum system alone attracts over 386,000 visitors each year. This tourism has a particularly high return on investment; when out-of-state tourists attend cultural events here, they spend 2.5 times more per person than Illinois residents.

The proposed closure will provide only meager savings, if any. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources projects \$4.8 million in annual savings. This amount equals just 1/10 of 1% of the state's projected deficit and does *not* include the high costs of the closure process, such as returning millions of objects the museums have on loan from the federal government and other contributors. In fact, contributors could sue the State for failure to abide by written agreements. The State will also lose \$2 million in active federal grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation.

We have quantified the significant economic harm that will result, but there will also be damage that is immeasurable. The state museum system's collection of 13.5 million objects – from arrowheads to the bones of ancient, extinct species – helps us understand and appreciate the arts, natural history, cultural diversity, and our shared heritage. The proposed closure will bar the public – including over 2,300 teachers and 40,000 students annually – from accessing this learning. In addition, even a temporary closure will likely result in the loss of the museums' national accreditation, damaging their reputation and making it more difficult to convince donors to contribute in the future.

We urge the Commission to countermand the Governor's directive to implement this closure, and we ask that you do all that you can to keep the Illinois State Museum System open, free, and accessible to the people of Illinois. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or email (312-855-3105 x14, joy@artsalliance.org).

Sincerely,

Ra Joy
Executive Director

My name is Karen Witter. I am opposed to closing the IL State Museum. I had a long association with the State Museum during my 35 years in state government. I was natural resources advisor to Governor Thompson when he created the IL Artisans Program, Lockport Gallery, and Southern IL Art and Artisans Center. I was Director of the former Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources, which included the State Museum. When DNR was first created, I served as the office director over the museum. Prior to retiring I served 14 years as Associate Director of the IL State Museum.

I could speak extensively about the benefits and value of the museum, but I will focus on the significant adverse economic impacts of closing the museum, which outweigh the estimated \$4.8 million cost savings.

The Illinois State Museum is a complex institution. It cannot be turned off and on like a light bulb. There will be ongoing costs to care for exhibits and the 12.5 million objects in the museum's collections, which require environmental controls and curatorial oversight. Buildings and grounds will need to be maintained. Additional costs will be incurred to return objects to lenders, notify extensive partners, layoff staff, and mothball operations.

Thirty-five percent of the museum's budget comes from external funds. Closure, even temporarily, will put these funds at risk.

Closure would destroy the ability to fulfill the terms of existing federal and other research grants, which total \$1.5 M. The museum competes successfully for competitive grants and raises additional funds due to the reputation and qualifications of the staff. The most qualified staff will leave, and the museum won't have the capacity to compete for these grants in the future. This impact is approximately \$2M per year.

Closure would destroy the trust of members, individual donors, foundations, and businesses that donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the museum. I helped raise private donations, totaling over \$1.2 M, for the Play Museum – one of the most popular attractions. Closure would negate the ability to raise such contributions in the future, since donors will not trust the state to keep the museum open.

The Illinois Artisans Program has given economic opportunity to nearly 3,000 artisans throughout Illinois, through the artisan shops and high profile events. Artisans routinely report that the IL Artisans Program has directly influenced their ability to be financially successful as practicing artists. These individuals in turn contribute to local economies all over Illinois. Closure will eliminate the IL Artisans Program.

The museum is a major tourist attraction in Springfield, and visitors contribute significantly to the local economy, at shops, restaurants and hotels. This will be lost as a result of closure.

The museum curates many collections under formal agreements with federal agencies, Native American tribes, and others. Failure to fulfill the state's obligations under these agreements may lead to costly litigation.

Closing the museum, even temporarily, will begin a downward spiral, which will take decades to recover. Closing the museum cannot be justified as a cost savings measure.

However, the value of the museum is even more important than the economics. The Illinois State Museum is a 138 year-old institution that protects the state's natural and cultural heritage, serves as a trusted educational resource, and conducts research related to critical societal issues. Will this Governor and General Assembly destroy the state's museum on the eve of Illinois' Bicentennial? What would that say about Illinois? I urge you to vote to keep the Illinois State Museum open as an important resource for present and future generations of Illinoisans.

Karen A. Witter

Natalie G. Mueller
Washington University
Department of Anthropology
1 Brookings Dr.
Campus Box 1114
St. Louis MO 63130

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL. 62706

July 17, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). I am sure you have received many statements in support of the public education that the museums provide. Some of these no doubt included statistics about the profitability of the museum, which negates the stated justification for closing it. While I agree that the museums provide a valuable service to the citizens of Illinois and are profitable, my most pressing concern is the safety and accessibility of the irreplaceable and priceless research collections curated by the museum.

I recently borrowed an archaeological collection from the museum: several hundred burnt seeds, carefully recovered from an archaeological site in the Illinois valley thirty years ago. These seeds are an integral part of my doctoral research investigating ancient crops cultivated by Native Americans in the Midwest. Without access to this collection, I would have been missing crucial information about the early cultivation of one of these crops, nearly 2,000 years ago. The ISM houses thousands of collections like this, the result of decades of careful excavation and curation efforts. Many of these excavations were mandated by federal and state cultural heritage laws and partly funded by the citizens of Illinois. If they are given away to other facilities or simply become inaccessible, the work of a generation of dedicated researchers and curators will be lost to the state.

Furthermore, the state has legal obligations to the many institutions who have decided to curate their materials at the museum, and to the federal government to responsibly care for artifacts and remains protected under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Many of us in the archaeological community are wondering if the state government fully understands the many, and expensive, legal ramifications of closing a research facility like the ISM.

For the good of the citizens of Illinois, the scholars from all over the world who come to the museum to study its collections, and the dedicated museum staff who have done so much to preserve the cultural and natural heritage of Illinois, I hope the state finds a way to keep the museums open.

Thank you for your consideration,
Natalie G. Mueller



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-3210

(805) 893-2257
FAX (805) 893-8707

Dr. Gregory D. Wilson
Department of Anthropology University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara CA 93106-3210

July 12th, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and
Accountability ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum

Dear Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability:

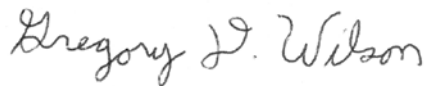
I am writing to express my strong opposition to Governor Rainer's plan to close the Illinois State Museum and its satellite museums and facilities across the state. The Illinois State Museum has played a fundamental role in educating the public, facilitating research, and curating archaeological, artistic, botanical, zoological, geological, and literary collections from Illinois since 1877. As a native of Illinois I benefitted from school sponsored field trips to the museum where I learned about my state's rich cultural and historical heritage and resources. Scholarly studies published by the Illinois State Museum became important educational resources for me in high school and especially during college and graduate school. As a college student I began to attend scholarly talks, tours, and other events at the Dickson Mounds Museum, the Springfield Museum, and the Cahokia Mounds Museum. At these three museums I had the opportunity to meet and talk to professional archaeologists who nurtured my fledgling interests in Anthropology, Geology, and Botany.

I am now a tenured professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. My archaeological research continues to be focused in Illinois. Over the last decade I have primarily conducted my archaeological research in Fulton County, Illinois. The archaeological record of this portion of the Midwest is unmatched elsewhere in the eastern United States. There is an incredible number of Native American mortuary mound sites, villages, and ceremonial centers in Fulton County, Illinois. There are also many important Historic era sites in this region. Archaeological research at these sites would be difficult or impossible without the intellectual and infrastructural/logistical support from the Springfield and Dickson Mounds Museums. I have brought large UCSB archaeological field schools to the area for a number of years. The Dickson Mounds Museum in particular has been instrumental in facilitating my research and the education of UCSB undergraduate and graduate students.

Beyond assisting scholars and students the Illinois State Museum plays a vital role in protecting cultural resources in Illinois; resources that would otherwise be undocumented, damaged, or destroyed. Dismantling great public and scholarly institutions like the Illinois State

Museum would cause immense damage to the state of Illinois' cultural and historical resources. Many of these resources, like archaeological sites and collections are not renewable. Once, these resources are destroyed, lost, or forgotten they can never be recovered or replaced. Shutting the doors on the Illinois State Museum would result in a radical reduction in scientific research, education, and conservation in the State that would also negatively impact scholarly research in neighboring states. Once caused this damage could not be undone. The budgetary requirements of the Illinois State Museum are modest relative to many other state expenditures. Thus, eliminating the Museum system will not solve the state's budgetary issues. It would be a short sighted and reckless act that would impoverish the state's ability to educate future generations and conserve the state's rich cultural and natural heritage and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory D. Wilson".

Gregory D. Wilson
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of California at Santa Barbara
Gdwilson@anth.ucsb.edu



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Office of the Director

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

As the Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, I am writing to let you know of my concern over scientific collections as you consider the future of publicly funded museums in Illinois.

As you can imagine, I am a firm believer in the importance of museums. They are the primary tool that our culture uses to archive and preserve its recent and ancient past. Far from being "attics," museums are the seed banks of our future. The age of discovery is still under way, and new findings would not be possible without our nation's museum collections.

With more than 8.5 million anthropologic, geologic, and biologic specimens, as well as an experienced scientific staff, the Illinois State Museum's collections are a vital asset for understanding our past and envisioning our world in times yet to come.

I understand the difficulties inherent in supporting a public museum system, but I can also assure you that the societal benefits of preserving and maintaining access to these important collections are immense.

If I can offer any expertise or assistance in your considerations, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kirk Johnson
Sant Director

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Natural History Room 421 MRC 106
P.O. Box 37012
Washington DC 20013-7012
202.633.2664 Telephone
202.633.0169 Fax



Illinois State Museum

Director of Science
Research and Collections Center
1011 East Ash Street
Springfield, IL 62703, USA

Tel. 217-785-4846 • FAX: 217-785-2857 • E-mail: grimm@museum.state.il.us

16 July 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum
Position: Opposed

Dear Commission Members:

I could write a letter extolling the great collections, exhibits, research, educational programs, and economic impact of the Illinois State Museum. Having been part of it for the past 28 years, I know it's all true. However, I will let others state that case, as my view would probably be viewed as self-interested.

Instead, I will relate my emotional reaction, the hurt that I feel when I think of the utter and incomprehensible disdain and insouciance that the Governor and DNR have exhibited toward this august institution, an institution that has been entrusted by the citizens of Illinois as the archive, custodian, protector, and presenter of Illinois' cultural and natural resources for the past 138 years, an institution that is run and served by museum professionals, not political appointees. Professionals who routinely work many more than their required 37.5 hours per week, even though they understand they cannot receive overtime (and which their union cannot fathom), professionals who regularly work evenings and weekends serving the public and not claiming comp time because there is too much work to do, professionals who regard their Museum employment their career and life, not just a job. This professionalism should be the model of state agency that serves the public, not the reason to eliminate it.

Museums, which date back to at least the Neo-Babylonian Empire circa 530 BC, are an attribute of civilized societies—societies that value and cherish their cultural and natural history. Without professional curators, the Illinois State Museum collections, the collective property of the citizens of Illinois, and the research and study thereof, are indeed endangered. The closing of the Museum amounts to its virtual looting. The looting of Museums is a phenomenon we unfortunately expect to read about in today's Middle East. Not in enlightened, civilized societies. Not in Illinois. Not in the United States of America.

Eric C. Grimm, Ph.D.

Director of Science



Maureen A. Donnelly
ASIH – Secretary & President Elect
Florida International University
College of Arts & Sciences
11200 SW 8th St. – ECS 450
Miami, FL 33199

19 July 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists is one of the oldest societies dedicated to the study of vertebrates and our group specifically focuses on fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. We are an organization with over 2000 members and many of our members work for museums in North America. We were saddened to hear that the government of the State of Illinois is contemplating closure of the Illinois State Museum and our members recently approved the following resolution by acclamation. We sincerely hope that the leaders of the state can find a way to keep this amazing institution opened.

Maureen A. Donnelly
Secretary & President-Elect

Larry G. Allen
President

RESOLUTION FOR THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM.—WHEREAS The Illinois State Museum, a 138 year old educational facility dedicated to the culture, history, geology, natural history, anthropology, and art of Illinois hosted over 300,000 visitors in 2014, and

WHEREAS THE Illinois State Museum was recently dedicated to the memory of the late United States Senator from Illinois, Alan Dixon, and

WHEREAS the six facilities housing over 13 million objects spread across the state operate on an annual budget of approximately 6 million dollars and employ approximately 65 full time employees who care for and maintain the outstanding collections of geology, biology, anthropology, and art, and

WHEREAS the approximately 5 million dollars saved by the proposed closure will not come close to solving the 3 billion dollar deficit faced the state, and the loss of the estimated thirty million dollars brought in by tourists visiting the six facilities will exacerbate state budget woes, and will deny over 2000 teachers and 40,000 school children from the state of Illinois the opportunity to learn about the rich natural history, anthropology, and art of the state annually, and

WHEREAS the museums of the United States annually host more visitors than those who attend professional sporting events, and

WHEREAS the proposal from Governor Bruce Rauner to maintain the collections with a skeletal staff while closing the museum to public, does not promote education in the state of Illinois, and

WHEREAS the Illinois State Musuem was one of the first to be accredited by the American Alliance of Musuems, and is at risk of losing that accreditation if the facilities are closed, and

WHEREAS the collections held in the Illinois State Museum and other museums around the world are priceless resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the leaders of the State of Illinois to find a solution that will sustain and support the Illinois State Museum as a jewel in the crown of the educational and cultural institutions of the great state of Illinois.

July 19, 2015

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
State of Illinois

From: Sarah W. Neusius, Ph.D.

Re: Comment on the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum

Position: Opposed to Closure

I am writing to express my shock and grief at the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). I implore the Commission to oppose this closure and Governor Rauner to reconsider the proposal. I believe this proposal to be short-sighted and dangerous to the future of Illinois. Although I currently teach at a state university in Pennsylvania, I lived in Illinois for several periods during my life including as a child, as a young married woman, as a graduate student, and during the early years of my professional career. I completed my dissertation research on an important archaeological site located in Illinois and the collections from this site are currently housed at the ISM. Throughout my professional career, I have maintained professional relationships with colleagues at the museum as well as consulted its collections. Currently I am co-principal investigator on a National Science Foundation grant that includes a major sub-contract to the Illinois State Museum. I know this institution well, and I believe that the museum is a treasure that the State of Illinois should do all in its power to maintain.

The losses to Illinois that would result from the closure of the ISM are many, but can be summarized in three areas. First, the loss to scientific research and knowledge would be almost beyond measure. This institution has produced high quality research in archaeology and in a number of environmental sciences for many decades. In addition the millions of specimens in the collections of ISM are incomparable, and making them inaccessible to scientists will significantly impact scientific progress. In addition the museum's collections often are maintained pursuant to agreements with federal and tribal governments and in response to federal laws that include stipulations related to their care and accessibility. These collections will need to be individually dealt with; their care must be maintained or their ownership must be transferred. In any case determining disposition of the collections makes closure of the museum highly impractical, not to mention a long process. The doors cannot simply be shut.

Second, the small number of highly respected curators and administrators of the ISM would lose their jobs if the museum closes. This would be an undeserved personal blow to a group of highly qualified and dedicated group of scientists. Far from being overpaid, do-nothing bureaucrats, this group of individuals includes dedicated scientists who also devote much of their time to sharing their findings with the public for moderate wages. I know many of these individuals work long hours and have devoted their lives to this institution. They do not deserve this, but in addition losing these people would be a loss to science. Assembling a comparable group of talented scientists would take decades. I assume that some way will be found to prevent defaulting on grant research such as that with which I am involved, but terminating on-going research projects would be a real loss to science and cannot necessarily be replicated.

Third, closing the ISM would be a major loss for the people of Illinois. The quality exhibits and educational programs that have been developed by the talented staff of this institution benefit the public in countless ways. School children and their teachers, retired citizens of Springfield, families, tourists, and many others visit this museum every year. A much wider public, including both Illinoisians and others, consults the online exhibits of the museum, and both physical and online exhibits have received awards. The quality of ISM as a museum is reflected in the fact that it is accredited by the

American Association of Museums, a designation that requires many steps and means the museum is one of the best museums in the United States. The State of Illinois should be proud of the ISM.

Most broadly the closing of the Illinois State Museum would be a betrayal of the responsibilities government has to its citizens. As a premier cultural and scientific institution, the ISM and its programs matter more than ever in the twenty-first century. Today it is clear our citizens do not have the level of scientific literacy needed for the future. Our children need to understand scientific knowledge and to want to pursue research in science. Museums like ISM are part of the solution to improving interest in and pursuit of science. It would be a tragedy for Illinois to close this museum; instead, it should be seeking creative ways to use the museum to educate its citizens.

Finally, based on published accounts, what it takes to maintain the ISM is not even a significant part of the budget shortfall of concern. It is important for the state to be fiscally responsible, but it makes no sense to close an institution that brings to the Springfield area 4 times what it costs in tourism dollars and other income, not to mention the intangible cultural benefits. Instead it would be irresponsible to make this institution a casualty, even in difficult fiscal times. Surely there are more thoughtful and creative ways to accomplish fiscal goals. Please do not close this important institution; please prevent the loss to us all that closure would entail.

Written Comments of AFSCME Council 31

Opposing the proposed closure of the

Illinois State Museum and Branch Facilities

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

July 21, 2015

AFSCME Council 31 opposes the proposed closure of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Illinois State Museum (ISM) in Springfield and all branch sites: Lockport Gallery, Dickson Mounds Museum, Rend Lake Arts Center, Thompson Center Gallery and the Research and Collections Center in Springfield. The closures would seriously damage a key component of our state's cultural and historic heritage.

AFSCME represented employees who work for ISM curate exhibits; design educational programs; maintain the more than 12.5 million artifact collections in anthropology, zoology, geology, botany, history, decorative arts and fine arts; conduct research and assist outside researchers who access those collections to study critical issues such as human impacts on the environment; host nearly 400,000 visits annually, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 schoolchildren; and promote the work of Illinois artists. Preserving these educational, artistic, scientific and cultural benefits is worth far more than the \$4.8 million DNR would save from the closures.

Closing these sites would be an irreversible loss to Illinois' economy as well. Closures would disrupt the estimated \$33 million state museum visitors spend in Illinois each year. The state would give up more than \$2 million annually in grant funds drawn down by the museums, and might face legal exposure and claw-back of outstanding grants left incomplete. Even a brief closure would damage the Museums' reputation and place their accreditation at risk. It would take years to reestablish accreditation, and in the interim the Museums would be cut off from some sources of outside funding and access to other museums' collections.

AFSCME represented ISM employees are gravely concerned even a temporary closure would jeopardize the condition of the collections – textiles, rocks, minerals, fossil plants and animals, biologic specimens, works of art, records and databases, human remains – that the state has agreed to preserve. DNR disclosed at the July 13 COGFA public hearing on the proposed closure that the \$1,490,500 budgeted to maintain the collections will only pay for 3 staff members – 2 curators and a technician to regulate temperature and humidity – as well as contractual security guards. This is clearly inadequate to maintain a 12.5 million piece collection stored at three sites. Many artifacts, including the mastodon tusks, need constant upkeep to preserve against deterioration.

This irresponsibly low level of maintenance staff would force DNR to cut off researchers' access to important collections. While DNR Director Rosenthal insisted the collections would be kept open by the "skeleton crew", to do so with such low staffing would be even more irresponsible. Scientists and academics from all over the world have submitted written comments to COGFA

describing the impact if access to this extensive and unique collection is cut off. For example, ISM collections in botany and zoology are used to study human impacts on the environment which inform policy responses to climate change.

Closure also puts at risk the preservation of Illinois' important archive of Native American artifacts, including skeletal remains and other sacred objects that are governed by written agreements with a number of tribes. Private donors – including Native American tribes – may seek legal redress if the preservation and access pledged by DNR when items were donated to the collection are no longer provided.

As several Commissioners commented at the public hearing, Governor Rauner does not seem to have considered the costs – loss of Illinois heritage, local economic impact, and state finances – before announcing this closure. AFSCME urges COGFA members to use this process to apply a rational and thoughtful analysis. We believe COGFA members will find that the losses inherent in closure of these museums are too great to justify.

My name is Karen Witter. I am opposed to closing the IL State Museum. I had a long association with the State Museum during my 35 years in state government. I was natural resources advisor to Governor Thompson when he created the IL Artisans Program, Lockport Gallery, and Southern IL Art and Artisans Center. I was Director of the former Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources, which included the State Museum. When DNR was first created, I served as the office director over the museum. Prior to retiring I served 14 years as Associate Director of the IL State Museum.

I could speak extensively about the benefits and value of the museum, but I will focus on the significant adverse economic impacts of closing the museum, which outweigh the estimated \$4.8 million cost savings.

The Illinois State Museum is a complex institution. It cannot be turned off and on like a light bulb. There will be ongoing costs to care for exhibits and the 12.5 million objects in the museum's collections, which require environmental controls and curatorial oversight. Buildings and grounds will need to be maintained. Additional costs will be incurred to return objects to lenders, notify extensive partners, layoff staff, and mothball operations.

Thirty-five percent of the museum's budget comes from external funds. Closure, even temporarily, will put these funds at risk.

Closure would destroy the ability to fulfill the terms of existing federal and other research grants, which total \$1.5 M. The museum competes successfully for competitive grants and raises additional funds due to the reputation and qualifications of the staff. The most qualified staff will leave, and the museum won't have the capacity to compete for these grants in the future. This impact is approximately \$2M per year.

Closure would destroy the trust of members, individual donors, foundations, and businesses that donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the museum. I helped raise private donations, totaling over \$1.2 M, for the Play Museum – one of the most popular attractions. Closure would negate the ability to raise such contributions in the future, since donors will not trust the state to keep the museum open.

The Illinois Artisans Program has given economic opportunity to nearly 3,000 artisans throughout Illinois, through the artisan shops and high profile events. Artisans routinely report that the IL Artisans Program has directly influenced their ability to be financially successful as practicing artists. These individuals in turn contribute to local economies all over Illinois. Closure will eliminate the IL Artisans Program.

The museum is a major tourist attraction in Springfield, and visitors contribute significantly to the local economy, at shops, restaurants and hotels. This will be lost as a result of closure.

The museum curates many collections under formal agreements with federal agencies, Native American tribes, and others. Failure to fulfill the state's obligations under these agreements may lead to costly litigation.

Closing the museum, even temporarily, will begin a downward spiral, which will take decades to recover. Closing the museum cannot be justified as a cost savings measure.

However, the value of the museum is even more important than the economics. The Illinois State Museum is a 138 year-old institution that protects the state's natural and cultural heritage, serves as a trusted educational resource, and conducts research related to critical societal issues. Will this Governor and General Assembly destroy the state's museum on the eve of Illinois' Bicentennial? What would that say about Illinois? I urge you to vote to keep the Illinois State Museum open as an important resource for present and future generations of Illinoisans.

Karen A. Witter

Name: Jacqueline Ferguson

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum

My Position: **OPPONENT**

Type of Testimony: Written

July 21, 2015

Dear Co-chairs Senator Trotter and Representative Moffitt and the distinguished members of the Commission for Government Forecasting and Accountability:

The Illinois State Museum (ISM) provides invaluable information about Native Americans who once lived in Illinois through its exhibits, websites, and collections.

I would like to focus on two points here, one related to the potential violation of two state statutes and the other point concerns possible violation of a federal statute if the Museum is closed. The Illinois State Museum is named as the repository for "all materials and associated records" for materials recovered under the Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act (20 ILCS 3435:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=375&ChapterID=5>).

This act also allows the Museum to enter into long-term curation agreements with various entities (Section 7). Additionally, the Act specifies that the archaeological and paleontological site files for Illinois shall be maintained at the Illinois State Museum (Sec. 10). Currently, to competently maintain and update the site files requires a full-time staff member. Closing the ISM would be in violation of this statute.

The second state statute that would be violated by closure of the ISM is the Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=376&ChapterID=5>).

This statute specifies in Section 14 that human skeletal remains and grave artifacts, in short "All materials collected under this Act shall be maintained, with dignity and respect, for the people of the State under the care of the Illinois State Museum." The cutting of ISM staff to three people, as proposed by DNR Director Rosenthal, cannot fulfill this statute.

The second point I would like to focus on here, is a little known, but significant effect of the closure of the Museum as it relates to the thousands of human remains and burial objects housed by the Museum. Closing the Museum prevents the ability of tribes to consult on the disposition of these remains and objects through the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA (http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=913a018b2e6e6b978b0040e805b8e6fe&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title43/43cfr10_main_02.tpl.)

I can assure you, this is of great concern to the tribes who once lived here, the Peoria, the Potawatomi, the Kickapoo, the Sac and Fox, and the Winnebago-Ho-Chunk. The State of Illinois, by federal law, cannot ignore its NAGPRA responsibilities. The three-person staff would not be capable of doing this intensive work. If tribes don't have timely access to consultation under NAGPRA, costly fines and lawsuits can be assessed against the State of Illinois, which could erase any savings the State would hope to achieve by closing the Museum.

Fines assessed by the National Park Service, which oversees NAGPRA, have no ceiling and are based on (1) the value of the collections (more than 100,000 remains and objects) as well as (2) the pain and suffering of the entities seeking consultation (federally recognized Indian tribes). These fines could exceed the FY15 budget of the Museum.

DNR, through the ISM, has contractually agreed to preserve, protect, and display tribally owned artifacts that have been repatriated to the descendants of the Illinois Indian Nation (Peoria Tribe). And they trust us to keep our end of the bargain. Closing the Illinois State Museum is an assault on Native American heritage and a violation of the agreement, which would be yet another broken promise on the long road of broken promises to American Indians.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline A. Ferguson

Jacqueline A. Ferguson, M.A.
Advocate of Native American rights
Springfield, Illinois

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

As a scientist and educator, we are deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. Some of our important databases of Japanese plants, animals and fossils are also maintained and updated in the System. The fossil sample of museum possession has a globally precious specimen. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. We are opposed to the closure of the museum. We will express the opponent intention.

Sincerely,

20th, July, 2015

Fossil Research Society of Japan
C/o Dr. Yuji Takakuwa
Gunma Museum of Natural History,
1671-1 Kamikuroiwa, Tomioka, Gunma 370-2345, Japan
President Dr. Hiroyuki Mishima



July 21, 2015

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

From: Daniel Goatley, President
Conference on Michigan Archaeology
6021 Drumheller Rd.
Bath, Mi 48808
Goatley1@msu.edu

Re: Concern about possible closure of the Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

The members of the Conference on Michigan Archaeology urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

We represent the professional archaeologists who conduct work within the State of Michigan. As researchers of the prehistory and history of the Midwest we are in constant collaboration with our researcher in our neighboring states. The Illinois State Museum System includes some of our important colleagues and some very important research collections. Many of our members have ventured to the State Museum facility's to examine these collections and work with the Museum Staff.

We oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- 1) The professional staff includes many individuals who have worked jointly on many important archaeological research projects. These include experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, ethnobotany, geology, and zoo-archaeology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.

2) Many of our members have and will hopefully continue to travel to Illinois to see and examine the more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections housed in the ISM facilities. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.

3) Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Conference on Michigan Archaeology

Daniel Goatley

President



CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY

1 Wade Oval Drive, University Circle
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-1767

(216) 231.4600 | (800) 317.9155
WWW.CMNH.ORG

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building,
Springfield, IL 62706
facilityclosure@ilga.gov

July 20, 2015

Dear Members of the Commission:

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) is Ohio's largest museum devoted to the study and interpretation of the natural sciences. The Museum was incorporated as an educational and scientific institution in December 1920 and opened its doors to the public in 1922. CMNH urges the State of Illinois to reconsider the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum system. As an organization dedicated to the professional study and preservation of natural history and anthropological collections, we are deeply concerned that an institution so highly respected and valuable to the State of Illinois is slated for closing.

The Illinois State Museum (ISM) maintains valuable and irreplaceable collections that not only document the rich cultural and natural history of Illinois but provide a nearly limitless source of scientific data. The proposed closing of these collections to researchers severely hinders scientific advancement in Illinois and across the nation. Equally concerning is the termination of the valuable educational and public outreach programs of the ISM, which serve hundreds of thousands of adults and children across the region each year. As an organization concerned with public education, CMNH appreciates the importance of such programming and greatly regrets the proposed elimination of such a long-standing and successful effort by the Illinois State Museum. We urge the State of Illinois to seriously reconsider the proposed closing of this fine museum system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Evalyn Gates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Evalyn Gates, Ph.D.
Executive Director & CEO



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-3210

(805) 893-2257
FAX (805) 893-8707

Dr. Amber VanDerwarker
Department of Anthropology
University of California
Santa Barbara CA 93106-3210

July 12th, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure

703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum

Dear Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability

I am a tenured professor who has been in collaboration with researchers employed at the Illinois State Museum for many years. The main museum and its subsidiaries (e.g., Dickson Mounds Museum) have been instrumental in providing access to collections, housing research tools and equipment, and furthering our knowledge of ancient societies that once existed in the great state of Illinois. Indeed, Illinois is home to the largest complex society (with a political capital at Cahokia) that existed prehistorically in the United States of America. As such, the museum (its facilities and staff) services one of the most active archaeological research programs in the USA. This institution has been invaluable and indispensable to my own research, but that of thousands of researchers throughout Illinois, the broader USA, and researchers coming from abroad. Indeed, my first research project (when I was just an undergraduate student) took me to the comparative zooarchaeological collections at the ISM. This is the necessary collection that must be referenced by anyone analyzing animal bones from ancient archaeological sites in Illinois. This represents just one example of the possible impacts on the production and dissemination of knowledge that could occur by closing this great and enduring institution. It is a profound shame that the ISM, with its mission of educating the public and providing support to researchers who assist in this endeavor, may fall into virtual disrepair because of budget cuts. It would be akin to closing the Smithsonian in the face of federal income issues. I strongly oppose the closure of this facility and beg that Commission reconsider this action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber VanDerwarker".

Amber M. VanDerwarker, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3210
(805) 893-8604

Natalie G. Mueller
Washington University
Department of Anthropology
1 Brookings Dr.
Campus Box 1114
St. Louis MO 63130

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL. 62706

July 17, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). I am sure you have received many statements in support of the public education that the museums provide. Some of these no doubt included statistics about the profitability of the museum, which negates the stated justification for closing it. While I agree that the museums provide a valuable service to the citizens of Illinois and are profitable, my most pressing concern is the safety and accessibility of the irreplaceable and priceless research collections curated by the museum.

I recently borrowed an archaeological collection from the museum: several hundred burnt seeds, carefully recovered from an archaeological site in the Illinois valley thirty years ago. These seeds are an integral part of my doctoral research investigating ancient crops cultivated by Native Americans in the Midwest. Without access to this collection, I would have been missing crucial information about the early cultivation of one of these crops, nearly 2,000 years ago. The ISM houses thousands of collections like this, the result of decades of careful excavation and curation efforts. Many of these excavations were mandated by federal and state cultural heritage laws and partly funded by the citizens of Illinois. If they are given away to other facilities or simply become inaccessible, the work of a generation of dedicated researchers and curators will be lost to the state.

Furthermore, the state has legal obligations to the many institutions who have decided to curate their materials at the museum, and to the federal government to responsibly care for artifacts and remains protected under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Many of us in the archaeological community are wondering if the state government fully understands the many, and expensive, legal ramifications of closing a research facility like the ISM.

For the good of the citizens of Illinois, the scholars from all over the world who come to the museum to study its collections, and the dedicated museum staff who have done so much to preserve the cultural and natural heritage of Illinois, I hope the state finds a way to keep the museums open.

Thank you for your consideration,
Natalie G. Mueller

Clare Tolmie
33 Sunset Avenue
West Chicago, Illinois 60185

July 16, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Facility being closed: Illinois State Museum

Position: Opposed

To the Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

The Illinois State Museum (ISM) plays an important role in generating income for the State of Illinois. Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy. The Dickson Mounds Museum is a major stimulus to the economy of the Lewistown area. ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year. These figures suggest that the museum contributes approximately \$ 60.4 million to the state economy. In overall terms the museum's annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of the 2015 FY Illinois state budget of \$87.4 billion. This represents 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall. If the above figures reflect the economic impact of the museum, it is clear that closure will have an adverse effect on the overall economy of the state of Illinois and result in a loss of revenue from sales taxes, hotel taxes and other funding sources.

There is another possible impact on the state's economy linked to the closure of the ISM. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Section 707 of the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Protection Act; the Federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act; the State Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection, and the Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act, all development in receipt of federal or state permits or funding, or located on state, federal or local government property are required to determine if cultural resources (archaeological sites, cemeteries, and standing structures) are present, and to determine if the proposed development would have an adverse effect.

Reports on the potential impact of all such development are submitted to state or federal agencies for review. These reports are regarded as incomplete if they do not give information on known

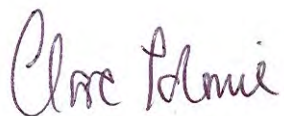
sites within or near the project area, or if they lack official site numbers (known as trinomials). Cultural resource management companies, state, and federal organizations obtain this information from ISM. At present, if the reports are incomplete they are rejected. If reports are rejected permits and funding will be delayed, which results in delay or cancellation of infrastructure and other construction or development projects.

The ISM maintains the Inventory of Illinois Archaeological Sites (IIVIAS). The IIVIAS is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Mines and Minerals, and is regarded as one of the most innovative state archaeological databases in the United States. The database is accessible online to approved users at no charge. This database includes records for all recorded sites (63,469 as of December 2014); all areas surveyed, and contains additional information important in completing background research. Most importantly, the ISM issues new site numbers. If ISM is closed, access to the database will be lost, and site numbers will not be assigned. It is not clear how the resulting incomplete reports will be reviewed, or if they will be reviewed at all. This could result in significant delays to projects with significant impacts on the economy at the local and state level.

The IIVIAS is just one example of the innovative work of the ISM and of the databases curated by ISM for use by researchers (professional, avocational or academic) who work in Illinois. Closure of the ISM would prevent access to this database, as well as other important resources and, of course, the museums themselves. The closure of the Illinois State Museum would be an incalculable loss to the state of Illinois and its citizens.

I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Clare Tolmie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Tolmie, Ph.D., RPA



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-3210

(805) 893-2257
FAX (805) 893-8707

Dr. Gregory D. Wilson
Department of Anthropology University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara CA 93106-3210

July 12th, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and
Accountability ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum

Dear Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability:

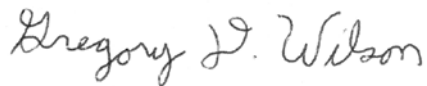
I am writing to express my strong opposition to Governor Rainer's plan to close the Illinois State Museum and its satellite museums and facilities across the state. The Illinois State Museum has played a fundamental role in educating the public, facilitating research, and curating archaeological, artistic, botanical, zoological, geological, and literary collections from Illinois since 1877. As a native of Illinois I benefitted from school sponsored field trips to the museum where I learned about my state's rich cultural and historical heritage and resources. Scholarly studies published by the Illinois State Museum became important educational resources for me in high school and especially during college and graduate school. As a college student I began to attend scholarly talks, tours, and other events at the Dickson Mounds Museum, the Springfield Museum, and the Cahokia Mounds Museum. At these three museums I had the opportunity to meet and talk to professional archaeologists who nurtured my fledgling interests in Anthropology, Geology, and Botany.

I am now a tenured professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. My archaeological research continues to be focused in Illinois. Over the last decade I have primarily conducted my archaeological research in Fulton County, Illinois. The archaeological record of this portion of the Midwest is unmatched elsewhere in the eastern United States. There is an incredible number of Native American mortuary mound sites, villages, and ceremonial centers in Fulton County, Illinois. There are also many important Historic era sites in this region. Archaeological research at these sites would be difficult or impossible without the intellectual and infrastructural/logistical support from the Springfield and Dickson Mounds Museums. I have brought large UCSB archaeological field schools to the area for a number of years. The Dickson Mounds Museum in particular has been instrumental in facilitating my research and the education of UCSB undergraduate and graduate students.

Beyond assisting scholars and students the Illinois State Museum plays a vital role in protecting cultural resources in Illinois; resources that would otherwise be undocumented, damaged, or destroyed. Dismantling great public and scholarly institutions like the Illinois State

Museum would cause immense damage to the state of Illinois' cultural and historical resources. Many of these resources, like archaeological sites and collections are not renewable. Once, these resources are destroyed, lost, or forgotten they can never be recovered or replaced. Shutting the doors on the Illinois State Museum would result in a radical reduction in scientific research, education, and conservation in the State that would also negatively impact scholarly research in neighboring states. Once caused this damage could not be undone. The budgetary requirements of the Illinois State Museum are modest relative to many other state expenditures. Thus, eliminating the Museum system will not solve the state's budgetary issues. It would be a short sighted and reckless act that would impoverish the state's ability to educate future generations and conserve the state's rich cultural and natural heritage and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory D. Wilson".

Gregory D. Wilson
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of California at Santa Barbara
Gdwilson@anth.ucsb.edu



Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure

703 Stratton Building

Springfield, IL 62706

July 22, 2015

Co-Chair Senator Donne Trotter, Co-Chair Representative Donald Moffitt, and members of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today. My name is Laura L. Lott, President and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), and I urge you to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

AAM proudly represents the full range of our nation's museums—including art museums, historic sites, natural history museums, children's museums, presidential libraries, science and technology centers, and zoos, among other institutions—along with the professional staff and volunteers who work for and with museums. We work on behalf of the nation's museums, which invest more than \$2 billion annually on educational programs and receive more than 55 million visits each year from primary and secondary school students.

Not only do museums provide spaces for education and research and cultural preservation, they also serve as economic engines in communities around the nation. Museums bolster our communities' economic infrastructure: They directly contribute \$21 billion to their local economies, employ 400,000 people from those communities, and spur tourism. Both the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Governors Association agree that assets such as museums are essential to attracting businesses, a skilled workforce, and local and international tourism.

That is the point I want to emphasize with you today: Museums—including those that comprise the ISM System—are a vital part of Illinois' economy. Closing the ISM System could extinguish this source of vitality.

I appreciate the very difficult decisions before the Commission. The choices you must make are not easy. But the state will not find the significant cost savings it seeks by shuttering the ISM System.

First, the proposed closure would cost the state resources it can ill-afford to lose. More than \$30 million is spent in Illinois communities by ISM visitors—local, state and national—with about \$18 million spent in Springfield alone. Additionally, the System employs close to 70 people from within the communities it serves. Given the revenue that the museum system spurs, closing the system would burden local economies and risk harming local businesses.

That the museum system is so vital to Illinois' economy and the communities it serves should come as no surprise because the ISM System is well-managed and operates with distinction. For more than 40 years, this Illinois gem has served as a national model by meeting the highest standards of the museum field. The ISM System has earned and maintained accreditation—a mark held by only three percent of institutions nationwide. Accreditation increases a museum's credibility and value to funders, insurers, and the community, while also facilitating collections loans between institutions. Adherence to these standards is assessed by an Accreditation Commission, comprised of museum professionals nominated by the field and charged with making independent decisions regarding accredited status.

On July 9th, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) responded to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability regarding concerns about the museum losing its accreditation if it does not remain open to the public. While DNR correctly noted that accreditation must be renewed every 10 years, it failed to indicate that museums can lose their accreditation at any time if they are found by the Accreditation Commission to be in violation of the standards set by the museum field or the program's minimum eligibility criteria. Though this is not a regular occurrence, an institution did lose accreditation this way under different circumstances just last year. Risking the ISM System's accreditation by shutting its doors is an unnecessary gamble with this prestigious achievement.

In addition to foregone revenues, closing the ISM System will incur significant costs at a time when the state needs to maximize its resources. Closing a museum is not a simple matter of packing and shipping the state's treasures to some far off place, turning off the lights and shutting the door behind the last person out; it is a burdensome and expensive process.

Furthermore, Illinois risks defaulting on grants, contracts, and loans, which could open the state to potential lawsuits from federal agencies and private donors.

On top of these very concrete losses, closing the ISM System would cause other incalculable and devastating costs to the state of Illinois that it cannot afford. The state risks destroying its well-regarded museum system and in so doing, would lose its top notch researchers and historians. It would miss the opportunity to educate and inspire the 40,000 schoolchildren who visit every year. Most of all, closing the ISM System risks renegeing on Illinois' 138-year charge to protect its cultural and natural heritage for its citizens.

Again, I respect the fact that lawmakers have difficult decisions to make regarding the state budget. While concerns regarding the budget shortfall must be addressed, closing the ISM System to attempt to find cost savings is not the answer. The purported cost savings will not accrue to the state and could, in fact, cost the state revenues. Closing the ISM System is at best a dubious short term gain, and would certainly be a devastating long term loss to the local communities and people it serves.

Let's not leave the state open to potentially increased costs and lawsuits by shutting down this indispensable museum system. Let's not close the doors on the 387,000 tourists, researchers and children that visit the ISM System from around the state, and around our country.

Instead, let's keep the promise made to Illinoisans in 1877 to safeguard our cultural and natural heritage. Let's maintain the integrity of a proven economic development engine for our communities. Let's keep intact the heart and soul of our communities, keeping it strong and vibrant for another 138 years.

It is my hope that my testimony makes clear why the ISM System is vital to Illinois' past, present, and future; how it provides a significant return on investment to Illinois' taxpayers; and what adverse economic effects could occur if this system ceases to exist. Our communities are counting on you to do the right thing on behalf of a vital 138-year institution. I urge you to recommend against closing the Illinois State Museum System. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Laura L Lott
President and CEO

July 20, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: John “Jamie” Kelly
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System
Position: Opposed
Email (if you would like confirmation): jkelly@fieldmuseum.org

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System. I am an Illinois citizen, a parent of two young museum-loving daughters, an archaeologist, and an Anthropology Collections Manager at The Field Museum. I have visited the ISM and the Dickson Mounds Museum numerous times over the years with my family. In 2010, my colleagues from The Field Museum and I toured the ISM exhibits and the ISM Collections Center in Springfield with five museum professionals and archaeologists from Iraq. This visit gave them invaluable insights into exhibits and artifact care as they rebuilt their museums from the aftermath of the War in Iraq. I am proud that a war torn country such as Iraq continues invest in its world heritage, especially in the face of new threats by iconoclasts and terrorists. I am demoralized that we in Illinois have to fight to keep our state museums open to save our world heritage.

I oppose closing the ISM for a number of reasons from the vital role the ISM System plays in the preservation and promotion of our beloved state’s natural and cultural heritage to the fantastic financial return the ISM provides on taxpayer investment. While I could articulate why a nationally recognized institution such as the ISM is needed for connecting us to our heritage through scientific discovery and community engagement, I will focus my remarks on several financial reasons that are more prone to resonate with members of this Commission and Governor Rauner:

- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. The ISM holds these items in public trust, which is at threat of being violated. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISMs unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects, which are governed by written agreements and federal law. Violation of these agreements and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) will also result in costly lawsuits to the State of Illinois.
- **The ISM System has demonstrated a great return on taxpayer investment.** Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.
- ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.

- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall. The ISM is an infinitesimal line item in the State budget, yet it contributes tremendously to our understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of Illinois.

For these reasons, I urge you to recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. I would like my written statement against the closing of the ISM to be filed, and I would like confirmation that my email has been received and so treated.

Respectfully,

John "Jamie" Kelly
Head of Anthropological Collections and
Anthropology Collections Manager
The Field Museum
Chicago, Illinois

Name: Joseph M. Galloy, PhD, RPA
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum
Position: OPPOSED
Testimony: Written Statement Filed
Relationship to Facility: Advocate
Email: jgalloy@yahoo.com
Date: July 20, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Transmitted via email to: facilityclosure@ilga.gov

Dear Commission Members:

Many excellent points have been made by others about the value of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) in promoting education, tourism, and research in Illinois. Additionally, some have pointed out the legal liabilities that may be incurred by the abrogation of agreements made between the ISM and American Indian nations, research and governmental institutions, and private donors. Although I agree that these are problematic aspects of the proposed closing of the ISM, I will not repeat the supporting arguments here. Instead, I will focus my comments on the unintended consequences of closing the ISM that might negatively affect land development activities in Illinois. Such activities are those undertakings subject to state and federal archaeology laws (such as the National Historic Preservation Act). Examples include the construction of cell towers, banks, industrial complexes, and housing subdivisions. Smooth operation of the archaeological compliance process is vital to property development throughout the state. This is especially so in the Chicago and the St. Louis metropolitan areas.

The Illinois State Museum's Research and Collections Center is the state's only public repository for archaeological materials (and associated field records) that have been recovered from private and public lands. If the Research and Collections Center shuts down, there will be no place to legally curate these artifacts and records. This is especially problematic for those undertakings that accidentally discover ancient or historic-period human skeletal remains. Archaeology firms might have no other option than to indefinitely store recovered human remains on their own premises. For projects that are *expected* to impact human remains, a permit for their recovery is required from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). With no place for the remains to go, property development that would rely on such permits might be in jeopardy.

The ISM is also charged with recording archaeological sites that are discovered during the course of state and federally mandated archaeological surveys. The vast majority of these surveys are paid for by private developers and public entities, such as city governments. If archaeological sites are found, they must be recorded with

the ISM before the SHPO will review the survey report. Report review is necessary to release state and federal permits needed for development. Will the SHPO therefore have to delay report review until the ISM is reopened (if that ever happens)? The alternative of reviewing reports without recording the sites would invite chaos: archaeologists performing background checks on parcels slated for development would have no way of knowing whether or not sites have already been recorded, or if a parcel had already been professionally investigated. Likewise, there would be no way for developers to have accurate background checks conducted on property that they intend to develop. Such an ability is key when developing in archaeologically rich regions like the St. Louis Metro East, where avoidance of costly impacts to large, significant archaeological sites is made possible by information that has been continually reported to the ISM for decades. As of the end of 2014, there are 63,469 archaeological sites on file at the ISM; 1,520 new sites were added in 2014 alone.

As the above examples illustrate, closing the Illinois State Museum system is fraught with problems. It would have a negative impact on economic activity in Illinois, greatly offsetting the savings to state budget. The museum is not just a nice place to visit on a Sunday afternoon, or something that can be easily mothballed until some brighter day in the future. The ISM plays a vital day-to-day role in facilitating legally mandated archaeological work that occurs within Illinois. Without an institution that is able to fulfill this role, the property development industry in Illinois may be threatened with uncertainty and potentially very costly delays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph M. Galloy".

Joseph M. Galloy, PhD, RPA
430 Houston Street
Saint Charles, Missouri 63301

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Name: Lisa Park Boush, PhD
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum
Your Position: Opponent of closing
The type of Testimony you would like to give: Written
Email: lisa.park_boush@uconn.edu

July 19, 2015

To whom it may concern-

I am writing this letter **in support of the Illinois State Museum** and to voice my concern about its possible closing or impingement on its operation.

The Illinois State Museum is not only essential to the State of Illinois, but is a national resource of tremendous proportion. It not just holds critical research collections but also those that are irreplaceable to our nation as a window on the past. Illinois is fortunate to be able to have such treasures and unique resources that are simply priceless in terms of their significance. Using the museum to balance a budget shortfall is not only shortsighted but would impinge on present and future scholarship and understanding of our nation's history, bot human and natural.

We in the academic community value this State Museum's collections beyond its monetary value and ask that other areas of the budget get examined instead of this critical community resource. As we focus our education and research efforts on STEM, the Illinois State Museum has a tremendous outreach potential for training the next generation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lisa Park Boush, Director
Center for Integrative Geosciences
University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06269

354 MANSFIELD ROAD, UNIT U-1045
BEACH HALL 207
STORRS, CT 06269-1045
PHONE 860.486.4432
FAX 860.486.1383
geology@uconn.edu
www.geosciences.uconn.edu

July 20, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Angela M. Mallard, M.A.
Adjunct Faculty - Anthropology for Maricopa Community Colleges
904 W. Natal Ave.
Mesa, AZ 85210

Facility: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I was a research intern at the Illinois State Museum (ISM) in 2008 for the Anthropology Division. While my time there was brief, my relationship to the museum has never ceased. From a very personal standpoint, ISM provided me with numerous archaeological research opportunities. I was involved in the analysis of bone collections from several sites in Illinois and beyond, including human remains recoveries. This work had great historical significance to understanding the past of the state of Illinois, and indeed American history. From a very practical standpoint, moving some of these collections upon closure of ISM would be not only costly, but would make the collections highly vulnerable to damage. The intellectual cost, though, would be far greater.

For researchers like myself to lose access to over 12.5 million objects of irreplaceable value would be a major hindrance to scientific research. Many academics come to ISM specifically to study one-of-a-kind specimens; for instance, fossil mammals or prehistoric Native American artifacts that describe both the long and short history of North America. Undergraduates, graduate students, and professional faculty from around the country have made great use of these resources. This has, in the past, been a fantastic reflection on the state of Illinois and its contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge. It would be an incredible shame for that prestige to dwindle with the loss of academic influence coming from ISM, and particularly its Research and Collections Center.

I fear that those who suggest the museum be closed have greatly undervalued the contributions of the scientists, historians, and educators at the Illinois State Museum. Researchers here are published in national journals, often teach classes at local colleges and universities, and their work is highly respected. Importantly, they make a very concerted effort to share that work with the community, particularly the over 370,000 annual visitors. From curator lectures to public tours, they are excited to show the community what it is supporting. Countless children have learned about their history and their world from trips to ISM - in fact, 40,000 school children visit per year. If the museum is closed, some of the state's best scholars will lose a major avenue for sharing their knowledge with the public; indeed, they may leave the state of Illinois in search of a more supportive infrastructure, which would have negative ramifications on education, the economy, and the community.

I urge you to consider the long-term costs of closing the Illinois State Museum. A short-term fix for the budget will not, ultimately, be a good choice for the state of Illinois. I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of these facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,
Angela M. Mallard

July 13, 2015

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure – Illinois State Museum: ALL LOCATIONS

703 Stratton Building, Springfield, IL 62706

Position: **Opposed**

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an artist who has exhibited at the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery. It has been a tremendous opportunity for me to exhibit my artwork at the museum—not just for the exposure—but also for the honor. The curatorial staff is excellent, well respected and execute exhibitions of high quality and thoughtful content.

I oppose closing the ISM for numerous reasons:

It is a **NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM** – one of only 5 in the nation!!!

- **The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.** An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation.
- **Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens** who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
- **The ISM hosts numerous public** lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

NUMBERS + DOLLARS – touches many lives in multiple ways and brings in dollars for IL!!!

- **Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year.** Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy. Other facilities also bring in revenue for surrounding communities.
- **ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.**

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. This Illinois treasure must be saved. It is too costly on many levels to close. It is priceless. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Marjorie Woodruff
Chicago Artist



**POWELL ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH CENTER**

at

The Fingerhut House

**5500 Collinsville Road
Fairmount City, IL 62201**

(618) 271-4920

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

Name: Powell Archaeological Research Center/Kathleen Stahlman, Director and Susanna Bailey, Secretary

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum

Position: Opposed to ISM closure

Written Statement Filed

Email: kstahlman@earthlink.net; susannabailey@charter.net

Powell Archaeological Research Center (PARC) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit volunteer organization located in Fairmont City, Illinois. We are dedicated to saving and preserving archaeological sites for future study, especially in the Metro-East region of Illinois. Since PARC was formed in 1997, we have repeatedly accessed and benefitted from the Illinois State Museum's resources and expertise, especially in housing archaeological materials.

The Illinois State Museum is regarded with utmost respect and stands out as a shining example of how museums should be run with its outstanding facilities and educational and scientific programs. It is one of Illinois' jewels and is something of which Illinois should be extremely proud. The State of Illinois has in its care very important cultural resources, and because of this, has the responsibility of caring for and protecting these resources. The PARC board and members join thousands of voices from across the state and beyond in asking you to continue this important educational and curatorial service for our future. We cannot imagine the artifacts at the museum not having the critical care they deserve, and cannot imagine the public not being able to access the museum's facilities and educational programs. It would be a disservice to the people of Illinois and to many throughout the world to close this facility.

We hereby respectfully ask that you reconsider your plan to close the Illinois State Museum.

Board of Directors,
Powell Archaeological Research Center



Washington University in St. Louis

ARTS & SCIENCES

Tristram R. Kidder

*Edward S. and Tedi Macias Professor
Chair, Department of Anthropology*

July 21, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure

703 Stratton Building

Springfield, IL 62706

facilityclosure@ilga.gov

I am writing on behalf of my colleagues in the Department of Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis to protest the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). The ISM is not just a public museum that enthralls children and adults alike (which it does) but it is also a nationally known scientific research institute that supports and galvanizes critical scholarship that helps make Illinois, the Midwest, and the nation a better place to live and work. The findings of researchers supported by the ISM encompass a range of critical issues, especially including environmental and historical research that helps us understand our history and how we as humans interact with and shape the natural world. In a time of rapid environmental change, the knowledge provided by ISM researchers and supported by the vast and irreplaceable collections is of the utmost importance as we consider shaping policies for the present and the future. Closing the ISM is a short-sighted response that will bring great harm to the state and the region.

In addition, the ISM has a responsibility to curate the collections on deposit in the facility. This includes materials donated by Washington University in St. Louis. Curation of natural history and anthropology collections cannot be done responsibly by a caretaker staff. Museum holdings represent a lifelong commitment to the proper care and maintenance of the collections and closing the museum would jeopardize this pledge that was made between the museum and its donors, not to mention between the museum, the State of Illinois, and the taxpayers. The scientific legacy of the ISM collections is too valuable to squander for the sake of relatively small short-term financial savings.

Sincerely,

Tristram R. Kidder



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Office of the Director

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

As the Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, I am writing to let you know of my concern over scientific collections as you consider the future of publicly funded museums in Illinois.

As you can imagine, I am a firm believer in the importance of museums. They are the primary tool that our culture uses to archive and preserve its recent and ancient past. Far from being "attics," museums are the seed banks of our future. The age of discovery is still under way, and new findings would not be possible without our nation's museum collections.

With more than 8.5 million anthropologic, geologic, and biologic specimens, as well as an experienced scientific staff, the Illinois State Museum's collections are a vital asset for understanding our past and envisioning our world in times yet to come.

I understand the difficulties inherent in supporting a public museum system, but I can also assure you that the societal benefits of preserving and maintaining access to these important collections are immense.

If I can offer any expertise or assistance in your considerations, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kirk Johnson
Sant Director

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Natural History Room 421 MRC 106
P.O. Box 37012
Washington DC 20013-7012
202.633.2664 Telephone
202.633.0169 Fax



Illinois State Museum

Director of Science
Research and Collections Center
1011 East Ash Street
Springfield, IL 62703, USA

Tel. 217-785-4846 • FAX: 217-785-2857 • E-mail: grimm@museum.state.il.us

16 July 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum
Position: Opposed

Dear Commission Members:

I could write a letter extolling the great collections, exhibits, research, educational programs, and economic impact of the Illinois State Museum. Having been part of it for the past 28 years, I know it's all true. However, I will let others state that case, as my view would probably be viewed as self-interested.

Instead, I will relate my emotional reaction, the hurt that I feel when I think of the utter and incomprehensible disdain and insouciance that the Governor and DNR have exhibited toward this august institution, an institution that has been entrusted by the citizens of Illinois as the archive, custodian, protector, and presenter of Illinois' cultural and natural resources for the past 138 years, an institution that is run and served by museum professionals, not political appointees. Professionals who routinely work many more than their required 37.5 hours per week, even though they understand they cannot receive overtime (and which their union cannot fathom), professionals who regularly work evenings and weekends serving the public and not claiming comp time because there is too much work to do, professionals who regard their Museum employment their career and life, not just a job. This professionalism should be the model of state agency that serves the public, not the reason to eliminate it.

Museums, which date back to at least the Neo-Babylonian Empire circa 530 BC, are an attribute of civilized societies—societies that value and cherish their cultural and natural history. Without professional curators, the Illinois State Museum collections, the collective property of the citizens of Illinois, and the research and study thereof, are indeed endangered. The closing of the Museum amounts to its virtual looting. The looting of Museums is a phenomenon we unfortunately expect to read about in today's Middle East. Not in enlightened, civilized societies. Not in Illinois. Not in the United States of America.

Eric C. Grimm, Ph.D.

Director of Science



Society of Herbarium Curators
Andrea Weeks, Ph.D. President
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MSN 3E1
Fairfax, Virginia USA 22030
www.herbariumcurators.org

July 21, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
facilityclosure@ilga.gov

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the Society of Herbarium Curators, I respectfully submit **our opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum**. Our society represents the interests of over 200 herbarium curators and collections professionals. We are particularly concerned about the effect of the potential closure on the Illinois State Herbarium (ISM), which is housed in the Museum. We provide this written statement in support of ISM to be filed as public comment.

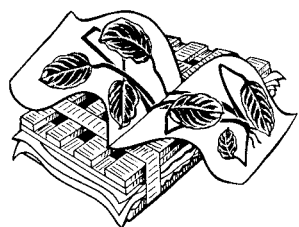
Were the Museum closed, key resources for understanding Illinois natural heritage would be lost. The Illinois State Herbarium (ISM) houses over 114,000 specimens of Illinois plant biodiversity that are used for research and educational outreach, and is overseen by its curator, Dr. Hong Qian. It is the state's sixth largest collection, was founded on collections made in the late 1800's and grew to its present size during the 20th and 21th century. As such, ISM uniquely documents how plant biodiversity has changed during Illinois's urbanization and transition to industrial agriculture.

While specimens can be transferred to other institutions easily, people and expertise cannot. Closure of the Museum would almost certainly represent a net loss of human resources at a time when the many pressing global environmental challenges require even greater numbers of biodiversity experts working to document, understand and manage our natural heritage. We encourage the state of Illinois to reject joining the ranks of institutions that have abandoned collections-based research (see attached article) and to preserve the Illinois State Museum as a resource to Illinois citizens now and in the future.

Sincerely,

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

Andrea Weeks, Ph.D.
President, Society of Herbarium Curators
Associate Professor, George Mason University



The Plant Press



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

New Series - Vol. 17 - No. 4

October-December 2014

A Curator's Perspective

The Erosion of Collections-Based Science: Alarming Trend or Coincidence?

By Vicki A. Funk*

Over the last few years many visitors have passed through the doors of the U.S. National Herbarium (Herbarium Code: US) bringing depressing news about some of our fellow botanical institutions and research centers. Institutions, which house historic and otherwise important botanical specimens, have been closed. The scientists who study, preserve, and curate them, have been fired, downsized, forced into retirement, or had their focus directed away from taxonomy and systematics. When reasons are given they usually involve budget shortfalls; unfortunately, collections and research are easy targets. But when I mentioned this to one former museum director who was visiting, his reply was, "When I was a director and had a budget shortfall I went out and raised more money, I did not fire my staff!"

Is this a trend or a coincidence? Perhaps a more detailed examination of events will provide an answer and so we begin with the Milwaukee Public Museum and continue up to the ongoing recent troubles at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

In 2005 *Milwaukee Public Museum* (MIL; established in 1882; 250,000 specimens) eliminated science and fired most of its staff. If you check the museum's website it seems they no lon-

ger have much of a science presence, just a few collections managers, emeritus curators and adjunct curators who have jobs elsewhere. At the time, most of us thought this was a unique event. How could an institution with 4.5 million objects and specimens, spread over a broad array of departments go out of the research business? How did they think they would keep their collections, exhibits and education programs up to date? But in the nearly 10 years since that event, additional examples of this type of nearsighted administrative behavior has become more frequent as research program after research program has taken the brunt of budget shortfalls; we have become increasingly more alarmed.

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (FTG; established in 1936; 165,000 specimens)

Fairchild has long been active in systematic research. The board and administration decided to move to a different model where they would no longer pay the salaries of research staff but rather have Florida International University faculty work out of Fairchild. They currently have only one research scientist working there. Over a period from 2007 to 2009, the emphasis for research seems to have shifted from tropical systematics to ecology and conservation. In fact, you cannot even find the herbarium on the Fairchild website. If you search for it on Google all you can find is the FTG Virtual Herbarium which contains only about half the collections.

New York State Museum, Albany (NYS; established in 1836; 279,000 specimens)

Most of the research staff was let go a few years ago, including all of the botanists. According to the staff directory, there are four curators, all zoologists, one of which appears to be a state employee. They do have collection managers listed for most collections, including botany, but the herbarium does not appear to have an active research program.

Brooklyn Botanical Garden (BKL; established in 1910; 300,000 specimens)

In August 2013, Brooklyn Botanic Garden suspended its research program and shuttered its herbarium. All members of the Garden's Science Department were laid off, except for one herbarium assistant who was transferred elsewhere and a part-time plant mounter. The Science Department's director was on sabbatical at NSF and she has since left the Garden for a position elsewhere. The Director of Living Collections was made the Director of Collections with the additional responsibility of managing the herbarium. The staff laid off had 60 years of combined experience with BKL. Currently no scientific research is being conducted at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The herbarium, once widely used by scientists especially those doing research in New York City and Long Island, remains essentially inaccessible to the public.

* With contributions by many individuals in the botanical community.

Profile

Continued from page 1

Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio) (INB; established in 1989; 183,000 specimens)

In 2011 INBIO announced that it was going out of the collections and research business. The herbarium was rapidly moved into another building because the building built specifically for the herbarium, had been sold. Recently, the entire staff was let go. This important collection is completely databased and available on line and together with the herbarium at the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica (CR; 215,000 specimens) they make Costa Rica the best botanically documented country between Mexico City and Bogota. Fortunately, the Museo has agreed to take charge of the herbarium; although, currently, they do not have the space to incorporate the specimens. So far, there is no guarantee that there will be jobs for the staff. Hopefully, there will be a new building constructed so that both collections can be combined and additional trained staff will be hired to manage it.

Field Museum of Natural History (F; established in 1893; 2,700,000 specimens)

Staffing for research and collections at the Field Museum had been on the decline for years. Beginning in 2009, between buyouts and staff leaving for other jobs, science staffing took a steep turn downward. Currently, there are only two curators in Botany and three support staff to study and manage the enormous resource. Fortunately there are three emeriti that continue to work. There are no science departments, just one "Action Science Center." The collections are well maintained because of the dedication of collections staff but there is no real growth. However, the emphasis seems to be on marketable skills and plant taxonomy does not seem to be on the list. There is no announced plan to hire additional staff.

California Academy of Sciences (CAS; established in 1853; 2,000,000 specimens)

Recently the administration of CAS has decided to shift the focus of the museum. Established scientists were pressured into retiring, new people will be hired but they will have a significant focus on outreach using social media. Oddly this comes after the construction of a new building to house the collections.



A good model to follow: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, which has recently renovated its herbarium, has imaged about 8 million specimens. All of their herbarium specimens are now stored in new compactors, organized by the phylogenetic system.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K; established in 1759; became a government institution in 1841; 7,000,000 specimens with well over 350,000 types)

For months rumors have been in circulation about the drastic changes that are taking place at Kew. Finally enough people have visited and others have passed through US, that we are getting a better picture of what is happening. Kew, long a premier botanical institution for research and collections, is under serious attack. Reports indicate that the Herbarium, Jodrell Laboratory, and Millennium Seed Bank are to undergo drastic administrative changes and a significant reduction in science staff. The major structural change is that these three administrative units will be replaced by six focal areas: Collections, Identification and Naming, Comparative Plant and Fungal Biology, Conservation, Natural Capital, and Biodiversity Informatics. Nine people have been appointed to guaranteed new positions. Everyone else is being forced to apply for open new positions that are made available.

When this crisis at Kew started 25 people decided to retire and those positions were lost altogether. That left 200 staff members in the three units. The scientific staff is scheduled to be reduced

from 200 to 176 which makes it seem as if only 24 positions will be lost. However this number is misleading—the 176 positions include 12 new positions in Biodiversity Informatics, at least some of which may need to be hired from outside Kew, which would further reduce the number of current Kew staff to be retained. Also, the new positions include 27 'Career Development Fellows,' which are fixed non-renewable term (3-5 years) appointments designed to develop researchers from current Kew staff. These staff members are then apparently expected to seek research positions at Kew, attract independent funding, or simply become redundant and have to leave Kew.

Except for the heads of the new focal areas and a limited number of new slots that are very close to existing ones, everyone else will have to apply for one or more of the positions that have been created in the new structure. Any new positions that are not filled by current Kew staff will be opened to a wider pool of applicants. It appears then that at a minimum, 24 current Kew staff members in science will lose their jobs by December 1 but reason suggests that the number could be significantly higher. Taking all of this into account, the total loss of permanent jobs

Continued on page 14

Profile

Continued from page 13

in science at Kew will probably be at least 50 or 25 percent of the current permanent science positions. However, if you include the 25 that took retirement the loss of science positions would be 34 percent.

Equally disturbing is the division of the remaining herbarium staff into three areas: Americas, Africa, and Asia. Systematic groups such as the “Legumes” will no longer exist and the leaders and staff of these groups will have to compete for jobs with everyone else. What is striking about this is that most of the world (including Kew scientists) has been moving to synthetic work with a global focus and yet the administration at Kew is choosing to balkanize their research into areas. It is amazing that Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle in Paris (P) has just worked hard to break down such barriers while Kew is building them. It makes it difficult for specialists in a particular family to view a plant group from a global perspective. Will we no longer have “world experts” at Kew?

In addition, the loss of support staff at Kew will be great and that will mean that curators will have to spend more time doing technical work and less time on science. Those scientists that are able to obtain one of the herbarium positions may very well find themselves overwhelmed with collections work as well as mentoring and teaching and as a result have very little time to do research. Certainly Kew has a budget shortfall but when you balance the budget by gutting research and collections staff you fail to recognize that expertise in a group of plants is built up over many years and cannot be replicated once it is lost.

Biological specimens are critical for the next frontiers of climate change studies: they provide the evidence of past as well as present distributions. A deeper understanding of life on Earth in the past can help us predict and possibly mitigate the worst impacts of climate change in the future. Such information is not readily available but it is becoming more so. For some collections it is now possible to view their data and images online and this allows us to use advanced modeling techniques to predict which species may survive and which may go extinct.

Images alone are not enough. Names



The U.S. National Herbarium will soon begin using a scanner, similar to the one pictured here, to capture images of herbarium specimens. The first project will scan 280,000 fern specimens and 20,000 Onagraceae specimens.

of organisms change frequently and these proposed changes need to be evaluated and either accepted or rejected. More importantly, a specimen is only useful if it has a proper identification. Many specimens are misidentified. Insuring that something is correctly identified requires a detailed examination of the actual specimen, usually under a microscope. As a result, all collections require constant curation to make them useful for climate change studies and other biodiversity studies. Collections that are not studied and maintained, even if they are physically well cared for, can become out-of-date and less useful.

The utility of collections does not stop with climate change. If you search for “Biological Collections” in Google Scholar, you will find a host of references on the use of such specimens ranging from phenological data to populations trends, utility of vouchers, DNA based phylogenies, biodiversity estimates, and trait evolution.

Lastly, the actions of these gardens and museums fail to take into account that to be relevant and useful collections must continue to grow as new discoveries are made. Expeditions to poorly understood areas are critical for filling in holes in our data and for collecting new material in ways that allow the preservation of genome quality tissue for new methods of investigation. It seems that just when the world is beating a path to our door and asking for help and collaboration we are closing our doors and turning them away.

Here at the Smithsonian Institution we

are not immune. Since I was hired in 1981, our scientific staff has shrunk by about 50 percent and our collections staff even more. The Botany staff at the Smithsonian is concerned about our colleagues and the collections they study, at Kew and around the world. It is troubling that there seems to be an alarming trend in museum and garden administrations to devalue collections and the staff who study and care for them. This is a critical point in time to work toward a world-wide effort to stop and reverse this attrition.

Publications

Appelhans, M.S., **W.L. Wagner** and K.R. Wood. 2014. *Melicope balgooyi* Appelhans, W.L. Wagner & K.R. Wood, a new species and new record in *Melicope* section *Melicope* (Rutaceae) for the Austral Islands. *Phytokeys* 39: 77-86. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.39.7691>

Alexander, S.N., B. Hoffman, **C.L. Kelloff** and **V.A. Funk**. 2014. Smithsonian Plant Collections, the Guianas: 1991-1993 and 1995-2000, Bruce Hoffman. *Smithson. Contrib. Bot.* 101: 1-188. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5479/si.19382812.101>

Bucher, K.E., **D.L. Ballantine**, C. Lozada-Troche and **J.N. Norris**. 2014. *Wrangelia gordoniae*, a new species of Rhodophyta (Ceramiales, Wrangeliaceae) from the tropical western Atlantic. *Bot. Mar.* 57(4): 265-280. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/bot-2014-0012>

July 8, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability

Dear Sirs or Madam

I am writing to strongly object to the closing of the IL. Museum in Lockport.

Illinois has an important history and culture that must be promoted, because it is a part of the state and what makes the state important. Why is it that the first targets for closing are those elements of our culture. Please save them.

Yours truly

John Lamb

1109 Garfield

Lockport, IL 60441



July 9, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter speaks to the closing of the Illinois State Museum as a major loss to the State of Illinois and a blow to a dedicated Museum scientific staff. As a long-resident citizen-scientist of this State I am registering a strong protest against the Closing.

While the museum's closing has had a devastating impact on the general public's faith in the State of Illinois, the effect is no less devastating behind the scenes. There it may be less visible, but it is woven into the fabric of the museum's services to the public at large and to many groups that have come to rely on the museum.

The museum is more than a parade of exhibits that can be turned off and on by higher authorities. First of all, the professional staff are not passive caretakers. They have important functions to carry out museum functions that relate to the citizens of the State and visa versa. For this and related reasons the Museum has an accreditation rating from the American Alliance of Museums that is sparingly awarded. To suspend and potentially eliminate these functions would deprive the State of the advice, rescue work, and curation that the people of Illinois have come to depend upon. Depriving citizens of their natural history and cultural heritage is a shame. But to shut it away is tantamount to erasing the public's connection with the Past. As the saying goes if we don't learn from the successes and failures of the past, we are destined to repeat them with adverse effect.

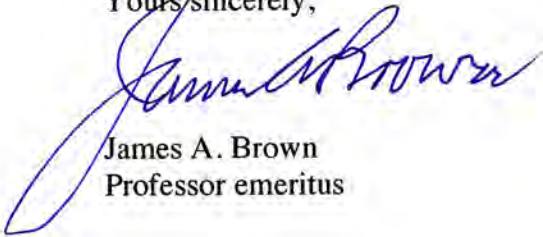
Second, the Museum is the sole designated repository for the natural history and cultural heritage of the State. No other state institution has this obligation. The repository is no mere attic to stick treasures that nobody wants. The collections have been a source for well-informed interpretations of past and present-day cultural history and natural history. Archaeological, anthropological, paleobotanical and zoological collections are national treasures that are accessed regularly worldwide. The quality of the exhibits, widely available web-based material, and the printed work has proved more than ample justification for maintaining an outstanding body of professional staff. Other museums around the country have benefited from contributions of this staff that draw upon the resources of the collections. The State Museum was the envy of our neighboring institutions.

As the Illinois Association of Museums has recently stated —
“Museums are important educational assets: community anchors, places of engagement, trusted sources of knowledge and research, proven economic engines for our communities, and vital resources for our teachers and students. Museums are the repositories of our important artifacts and cultural memory. Museums play a critical role in the sharing of information, historical memory, and the preservation of important artifacts, archives, and collections.”

Third, the professional staff serve as liaison to dedicated science teachers in the many public school systems spread throughout the state. Workshops and web-based materials significantly enhance such systems in out of the way places that cannot afford to have expertise in house. In this very increasing educational role the State Museum has carved out an important niche in the teaching of science across the State. To jeopardize this outreach is to marginalize school groups across the State. The action of closing the Museum reveals the hollowness of the avowed steps to protect the budgets of public schools.

Lastly, closing the Illinois State Museum System would result in savings of less than 0.2% of the state’s projected budget shortfall.

Yours sincerely,



James A. Brown
Professor emeritus

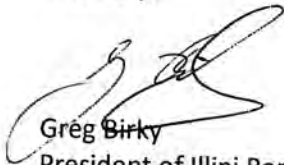
July 7, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting
and Accountability
Attention: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

I am writing to express my opposition to the recent announcement made regarding the impending closing of the Illinois State Museum. As a current member of the Illinois State Museum Society Board I have had the privilege to witness firsthand the benefits that this museum provides to our Springfield community and those visiting from different areas. The Illinois State Museum has been a landmark that the people of this community, including myself, identify with and are proud of. To me the museum is not only a place that displays the natural and cultural history of our state but it is an educational experience for so many children. It is a place that makes learning fun and gives children a space to learn about our great state and history in so many different ways. My own children have had the opportunity visit the museum with both with my wife and I and with their school. I humbly ask you to reconsider the closing of this facility to ensure that future generations will not miss out on having such an incredible resource at their disposal.

Sincerely,



Greg Birky
President of Illini Bank and
Illinois State Museum Society Board Member

July 12, 2015
15423 Catalina Drive
Orland Park, IL 60462

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield IL 62706

Re: Illinois State Museum system at risk of closure

Dear Commission Members,

The Illinois State Museum System must not be a casualty of the budget battle in Springfield!

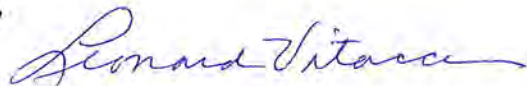
I am an Illinois Artisan who was given that title after my "Wood Inlay", Picture Frames, Clocks and Pedestals were judged by a panel who recognize art in many forms to be displayed and sold in the Illinois Artisan Gift Shops.

Last December I was recognized by the Museum Systems Artisans when I delivered my 1000th. picture frame. It also was my 91st. birthday. My wood art has been on display and sold at the three museum gift shops as is the work of all the Illinois Artisans. . The museum and gift shops are visited by travelers from foreign countries and from the 50 USA states that come to visit the Thompson Center in Chicago, Springfield and Rend Lake. I have received letters of appreciation for my work from individuals of many European countries.

Surely the "Illinois State Museum System", museums and shops are known as one of the places of interest to visit and gives the Illinois Artists a place to show and sell their art.

Please consider the loss of venue for the many Illinois Artisans work when making the decision to close the facilities.

Very truly yours,



Leonard Vitacca, Illinois Artisan

Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission,

The Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society (LOESS) would like to express our opposition to the closing of the Illinois State Museum. We are a not-for-profit organization that helps foster interests in Geology, Archaeology, and Natural Sciences through monthly presentations, field trips, workshops, and the annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil show held at the Illinois State Fairgrounds. We are one of the largest rock clubs in the Midwest with 328 members in 6 states. Our monthly meetings are held in the auditorium of the Illinois State Museum with an approximate attendance of 50 people. Since we can utilize this facility for free, the funds raised at our Gem and Mineral Show can be better used for educational purposes. This includes Scholarships to the Center for American Archaeology, book donations to local libraries, funding for the new traveling Nautiloid exhibit, and contributions to the Illinois State Museums Teacher Appreciation Event, and more

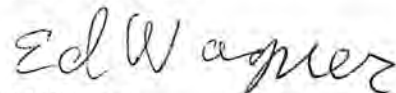
We have had a long partnership with the Illinois State Museum to provide a large interactive and educational exhibit for children at our Gem and Mineral show. The Research and Collection Center has also loaned us various minerals, fossils, and artifacts for use in our themed special exhibits. This show is attended annually by over 2,200 people including scouts, 4H groups, and school children who have received free passes to attend this fun and educational show. As we are in the process of trying to grow our show even larger, losing these exhibits would create a void that would be hard to fill.

Several of our LOESS members volunteer in various ways at the museum including Docents in the Changes exhibit, in the Play Museum, at special events, and assisting curators at the Research and Collections Center. The Annual Collectors Day held at the Museum also provides a great outlet for members to share their collections and knowledge with the public.

The potential closing of the Illinois State Museum would be a great detriment to everyone. It provides meaningful education, exposure to the arts and science, and fun for the community here and around the world.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Ed Wagner
LOESS President & Show Chair
PO Box 2272
Springfield, IL 62705
309-838-7782
LOESSeditor@gmail.com



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Awards Chair

Tracy Motter
Field Trip Chair

Austin, Texas
July 10, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

I am very disturbed by the news that the Illinois State Museum might be closed. This museum is internationally recognized for its collections and research staff. Some years ago I was privileged to spend some time at the ISM working on a research project with one of the researchers. I was very much impressed with the quality of both the collections and the research and support staff.

It was at this time that I learned that the ISM is not just the facility in Springfield but six facilities spread across the state. These are important research and educational facilities. I also learned that the whole system is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. I understand that only about 5% of museums in the United States are accredited. This indicates that the ISM is following national standards in the management of research collections, exhibitions and educational programs.

The collection of more than 13 million accessioned objects in the areas of geology, anthropology and history is a major research and educational resource. It is very well maintained and is readily accessible to qualified researchers.

The Illinois State Museum System is a major educational and research facility of the state of Illinois. It is the repository of a great deal of the heritage of the State of Illinois. I hope you can save the ISM for the future.

Sincerely,



Ernest L. Lundelius, Jr.
John A. Wilson Professor Emeritus
In Vertebrate Paleontology
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712
erniel@utexas.edu

CC:

The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate
The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
Tim Nuding, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate
Wayne Rosenthal, Director, Department of Natural Resources
Aaron Winters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Office of the Governor
Mike Zolnierowicz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

July 14, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure

203 Stratton Building

Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commissioners,

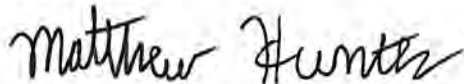
I am a history student at Illinois College, and am currently a sophomore at IC. I am writing this letter to protest the closing of the Illinois State Museum. Since its founding in 1877, the ISM has been a place to seek knowledge about Illinois history, and has served as an archive of historical, archeological, natural, and cultural information on Illinois. Already, several of Illinois' vital institutions have been shut down as a result of Governor Rauner's budget cut, and more are scheduled to be eliminated. This state cannot afford to lose this museum, for we would lose irreplaceable information about our state, ourselves, and our ancestors.

The Illinois State Museum has been an excellent resource for citizens of Illinois. People of all ages have come to this museum to learn and to expand their knowledge and understanding of the state they call home. I speak from personal experience. In my youth, I visited the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, and how the museum expanded my understanding of Abraham Lincoln, and I wanted to learn more about him. That was the beginning of my interest in history, and it is why I want to major in history.

Surely, as a man of Illinois, Governor Rauner should understand how the loss of the Illinois State Museum would result in the permanent loss of entire archives of information regarding our state's history and culture. It would not only be a loss to our generation, but to generations to come.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Hunter

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'H'.

24108 Burr Oaks Lane
Athens, IL 62613

July 18, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

My name: George L. Godfrey, PhD
Email: pnginnthewoods@gmail.com

Facility being closed: Illinois State Museum

My position: Keep the Illinois State Museum open!

Dear Commission Members:

Closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) would mean the termination of a long-valued institution that is based on knowledge acquired and accrued for more than a century. The ISM is a very valuable resource for Illinois residents.

The immeasurable values of the ISM transcend history, science, education, research in a multitude of areas, and art. All areas are beneficial to Illinois residents. The internal strength of the ISM and what it means to Illinois cannot be placed in the dollar column.

The history of the State of Illinois is well-told in many aspects of the ISM's programs that touch on the agriculture, economics, man's influence on the environment, history, cultural changes, and natural changes.

Where else can Illinois residents find answers to their questions relating to the above programming aspects of the ISM?

Numerous school groups have toured and learned from the ISM's marvelous displays and knowledge of ISM's staff whose members are internationally recognized. Also, the ISM serves as a magnet for bringing in school groups and individuals to learn about the State's governmental programs.

The ISM cannot be restarted if its doors are closed. If the doors of the ISM are closed, the ISM and all that it stands for will be gone. ISM's resources no longer will be available to Illinois residents. Also, the knowledge of ISM's staff freely offered to inquisitive Illinois minds will have vanished.

The ISM deserves to remain open and supported by the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,


George L. Godfrey, PhD
Entomologist



Museum Association of Arizona

P.O. Box 63902
Phoenix AZ 85082

www.azmuseums.org azmuseums@gmail.com

building a vital museum community

13 July 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Name: Janice Klein
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System
Your Position: Opponent
Written Statement Filed
Email: azmuseums@gmail.com

Dear Sir,

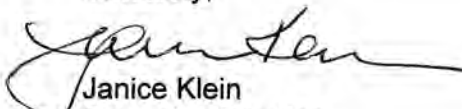
I am writing on behalf of the Museum Association of Arizona and the leaders of the undersigned State Museum Associations, representing more than 30,000 museums and their communities across the United States, to express our concern at the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

As we are sure you know, these museums serve many critical functions to the citizens of Illinois. In addition to the money that is put into the local and state economy through employment, purchasing, educational services and tourism, the State Museums also demonstrate the commitment that state government makes to the quality of life of its citizens. State Museums serve as trusted sources of knowledge and research, vital resources for teachers and students, and the repository of Illinois's cultural and historical memory.

From our experience in each of our own states, we know how important State Museums are to the health of other museums and their communities, providing leadership, practical assistance, and inspiration to their colleagues.

We very much hope that you will be able to work with the American Alliance of Museums, the Midwest Museum Association and the Illinois Association of Museums to find ways to keep the Illinois State Museum System open and fully operational for the benefit of the citizens of Illinois and beyond.

Sincerely,


Janice Klein
Executive Director

Kathie Thurman
Alabama Museums Association

Angela Linn
Museums Alaska

Kathleen Pate
Arkansas Museums Association

Katie March
Colorado-Wyoming Association of
Museums

Liz Shapiro
Connecticut League of History
Organizations

Daniel Citron
Delaware Museum Association

Michele Rodgers
Georgia Association of Museums and
Galleries

Dulce L. Kersting
Idaho Association of Museums

Cynthia Sweet
Iowa Museums Association

Lisa Dodson
Kansas Museums Association

Sharon Tabor
Kentucky Museum and Heritage
Alliance

Sherry J. Wagener
Louisiana Association of Museums

Erin I. Bishop
Maine Archives & Museums

Lisa Craig Brisson
Michigan Museums Association

Lin Nelson-Mayson
Minnesota Association of Museums

Brian Hicks
Mississippi Museum Association

Candy Sall
Missouri Association for Museums and
Archives

Deb Mitchell
Museums Association of Montana

Kathy Aultz
Nebraska Museum Association

Crystal R. Van Dee
Nevada Museums Association

Caroline Harris
New Jersey Association of Museums

Lisa Pugh
New Mexico Association of Museums

Devin R. Lander
Museum Association of New York

Jenny Yearous
Museums in North Dakota

Johnna McEntee
Ohio Museums Association

Brenda Granger
Oklahoma Museums Association

Rusty Baker
Pennsylvania Museums

Zinnia Willits
South Carolina Federation of Museums

Dan Brosz
Association of South Dakota Museums

Adam H. Alfrey
Tennessee Association of Museums

Ruth Ann Rugg
Texas Association of Museums

Jayceen Craven Walker
Utah Museums Association

Jennifer Thomas
Virginia Association of Museums

Darryl DeGripp
West Virginia Association of Museums

Joanne Kluessendorf
Wisconsin Federation of Museums

2009 S. NOBLE
62704



Jefferson's Giant Ground Sloth (*Megalonyx jeffersonii*) was named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, the father of American paleontology. The Illinois State Museum's Casting Lab creates replicas so that all may view this impressive mammal. It was an herbivore that lived in North America during the last Ice Age. It has been extinct for about 10,000 years.



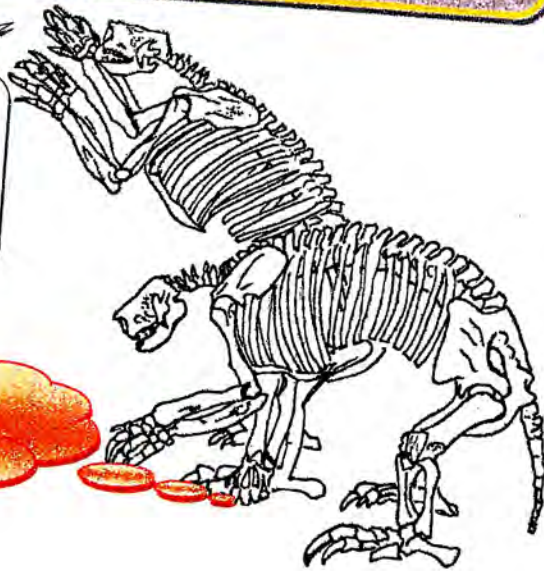
I OPPOSE CLOSING
THE ILLINOIS STATE
MUSEUM SYSTEM.
MY GRANDKIDS
LOVE ♥ IT!
Susanne Olson

TO CGFA
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Bldg.
Springfield, IL
62706

Illinois State Museum Casting Lab
"Breathing New Life into Old Bones"

I like learning at
the Illinois State
Museum

I Dig the Pit



21 July 2015

Name: Susan S. White, Board Member, Illinois State Museum Society
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum
Your Position: Opponent
Type of Testimony: Written Statement
Email: white2748@sbcglobal.net

Please accept this written testimony and register my opposition to the proposal to close the Illinois State Museum (ISM.)

My goal as a parent was to raise life-long learners. When my family moved to Illinois in 2006, we joined the ISM Society shortly thereafter. Now, nine years later, I am a current board member, and former president, of the ISM Society. I am constantly amazed by the myriad of offerings at the ISM that encourage life-long learning in our state. Some programs appeal to many; others to only a few. But all provide an opportunity to encourage unique interests.

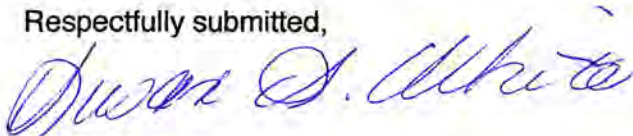
Eclectic is one adjective that describes the ISM. Did you know that the ISM:

1. displays collections from baseball cards to paper weights?
2. supports Illinois artists and artisans of all kinds?
3. has an international renowned pollen database?
4. offers lunchtime lectures on subjects ranging from turtles to hedge rows?
5. commemorated the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon?
6. encourages children to learn about fossils by playing in the children's section of the museum?
7. rotates our permanent collection to allow citizens to view original Audubon prints, Civil War quilts, presidential portraits, Abraham Lincoln art and memorabilia?
8. teaches the archaeology of our state?
9. Maintains a collection of what my children refer to as "dead stuff" (tusks, stuffed mammals, fish, etc.) at the Ash St. location, which rivals the back rooms at many renowned "big city" science museums?
10. Adds to the vibrant Chicago art scene by exhibiting the work of Illinois artists in the Chicago Gallery?

It took me no time to come up with this list, and I could add to it exponentially. Closing the ISM will be a blow to intellectual pursuits of citizens of all ages and backgrounds. I believe that education is the only way to move our society forward.

Please support life-long learning with your vote AGAINST closing the Illinois State Museum.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan S. White

19 July 2015,

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

To Whom it May Concern:

In light of the most recent round of political hostage taking, which threatens to close some of our finest museums and lay off dozens of nationally and internationally respected researchers and educators, I felt that it was my civic duty to write a letter in support of keeping these facilities open. As an Illinois resident and taxpayer, I find no merit to the argument that this move will help balance the State budget or right our economic ship, which has many parallels to the ill-fated Titanic. Our financial iceberg was largely created by politicians, who took a hammer to Illinois' piggy bank and then tried to hide the shattered pieces so they could blame "overpaid" state workers for the situation.

Instead of going after the graft and waste that seem obvious to most, those we foolishly left holding the keys to our Lincoln decided to lock the doors of some of our most visited and utilized museums and research facilities! It is not hard to imagine why Illinois is known throughout the country as the state where our governors (and other pols) make the license plates. If our legendary corruption and self inflicted economic woes are not embarrassing enough, now we are sending the message that we are willing to mortgage the educational and recreational resources of our state for political expedience. Are we really going to let our elected officials close "Wally World" to all the Griswald's out there who want to visit these great places of learning and discovery, which are free and open to the public? The Illinois State Museum brings in more money in tourism dollars that can be captured by closing the facility. The proposed closures also have many unintended consequences beyond the obvious impacts to regional tourism. For example, the lack of access to collections and records will interrupt the scholarly pursuits and careers of an untold number of researchers and graduate students from across the globe. This move sends the message that we are morally and intellectually bankrupt, which is a far cry from being in serious financial trouble! Where have all the statesmen gone? It is time for many of our elected officials to once again become public servants, not self-servants. Please keep our museums open and find other means for solving the budgetary impasse. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,



David J. Nolan
1121 E. Washington
Macomb, IL 61455

Comments From:

Name: KAY CAMPBELL

Address: 4112 MARIE DR

City/State/Zip: SPFLD, IL 62707

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
akcampbe1@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum Position: OPPOSED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because if funding is the only issue, begin charging a nominal fee for entry - to offset some of the cost.

Sincerely, Kay Campbell
Date: 7/21/15

Patricia R. McMillen
206 Le Moyne Pkwy
Oak Park, IL 60302
patriciarmcmillen@gmail.com

July 22, 2015

VIA EMAIL

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
facilityclosure@ilga.gov

Re: OPPOSING the Threatened Closure of Illinois State Museum – PLEASE FILE AS WRITTEN STATEMENT ONLY; CONFIRM RECEIPT BY EMAIL

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to register my objection to the threatened closure of the five locations of the Illinois State Museum under the budget currently being proposed by Gov. Rauner.

My relationship to the ISM system is as a lifelong user and fifth generation Illinois resident (starting with Hannah Jane Herron Jack and Thomas Tembrook Roberts, both of whom moved to Decatur, Illinois in the mid-19th century).

Visits to Dickson Mounds with my late father, grandmother and aunt were high points of my childhood. Continued visits to the Illinois State Gallery in Chicago continue to open my eyes to the variety of art and design produced in every corner of the state. And while I know that running the Springfield museum cannot be inexpensive, it is simply crucial for both residents and visitors to our State to have access to the artifacts and information that has been collected in the Museum's 135 year history. Every one of us plays a role in maintaining the health of our natural and cultural environment – not only artists and naturalists, but homeowners, farmers, and gallery visitors benefit from ISM's work. And when you look at it that way, it's one of the best investments you can make of my Illinois state tax money—cut some highway-widening, cut (ok just scale back) some government office air-conditioning, but honor the vision and hard work of our artists, curators and scholars.

The ISM has been in Illinois ALMOST as long as my family—farmers, business founders, lawyers, artists and parents—has been. Please don't destroy our history, nor the education of our children and citizens. Give our citizens, parents, and schoolteachers the support they need and deserve, and our beloved State will be repaid many times over.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia R. McMillen, Esq. (Retired)

TO: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Email: facilityclosure@ilga.gov

Name: **Dr. Richard E. Sparks**
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum
Your Position: **Opponent** of Closure
The type of Testimony you would like to give: **Written Statement Filed**
Email (if you would like confirmation): rsparks@illinois.edu

The Rauner administration has said that closing the five facilities of the Illinois State Museum, which had a proposed state budget of \$6.29 million for the new fiscal year, would save \$4.8 million and help defray the state budget shortfall that is at least \$3 billion. Closing the Museum would not result in any significant reduction in the budget shortfall, so the Museum is clearly just a pawn in the budget battle between the Governor and the Legislature. The proposed savings amount to less than two-tenths of a percent of the shortfall—if the shortfall were \$1,000, closing the Museum would save the equivalent of less than two pennies.

What the closure proposal has already done is to anger and dismay people who have contributed money, their own time, art work, and artifacts to a beloved Museum. The contributors include me. If the Museum closes, I expect to see an antique machine that drilled button blanks from mussel shells returned to me. I will then donate the machine to a facility that seems to have better prospects for longevity and public accessibility—the Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, Iowa. At least one major artifact from Illinois is already there—the historic Logsdon towboat, constructed in 1941 by Curt Logsdon of Beardstown, Illinois, used on the Illinois River, and then donated to the National Rivers Hall of Fame in Dubuque in 1989. Is the day coming when the people of Illinois will have to travel to adjacent states to see and understand their own heritage?

The closure proposal has already damaged the morale of the outstanding scientists at the State Museum I have worked with over the years as well as the prospects of attracting top scientific talent in the future. I can attest to these effects based on my own experience heading up research groups that attracted their own research funds but whose basic institutional support was threatened. The communities of researchers who work in areas such as archaeology, paleontology, cultural history, deep history as an indicator of future change, and other specialties are surprisingly small and word quickly gets around about good and bad places to start or continue a professional career. The Museum researchers I know are passionate about their work and have outstanding records of obtaining nationally competitive grants (e.g., from the National Science Foundation). However, institutional support is a requirement for obtaining virtually all competitive grants and I don't see how the State proposes to meet its contractual obligations on existing grants if it closes the Museum, let alone continue to be a viable competitor for outside research and education funding.

The Governor and the Legislature need to work together to address the real and substantial causes of the budget deficits and cease pretending that closure of the State Museum will do anything but

destroy a beloved institution that over the past 138 years has developed an outstanding international scientific reputation, excited generations of young people, and contributed to a deep understanding of our cultural and natural history that will inform decisions about our future.

July 18, 2015
Eric Shultis, Professor
St. Louis Community College
Illinois resident and working artist

I am writing this letter to express my support for the Illinois State Museum, and to encourage the State of Illinois to continue to fully fund this important Museum.

I am appalled that it would even be a consideration to end funding this institution. All one need do is to look at the facts and figures for how this museum serves the people of Illinois, educating us about Illinois history, culture, and helping us understand how the past informs the present. The art exhibitions have been consistently of such a high caliber that someone from any of the major art centers would find the work, context, and critical presentation on par with what they are showing. For those of us in the Midwest, we have been able to keep current simply taking a short trip to Springfield.

As artists working and living in Illinois, the Illinois State Museum has been a focal point for the very best of what is happening in Illinois, not just coming from Chicago but from all over this great state. The publications have travelled all over the nation promoting Illinois art and artists from coast to coast. I have over the years shared these publications with my students – to inspire them (looking at great art and reading the curator’s statements) but also encouraging them in that they could live and work in the Midwest becoming successful artists and giving back to their communities here. They do not have to live in New York or Los Angeles in order to make it.

My Focus On Contemporary Illinois solo show at the Illinois State Museum remains my favorite show for my entire career. The professionalism of the staff, how Bob Sill understood my work writing a really wonderful essay, how my wife and I were treated during the whole process was incredible. But the very best part of this show was the opening reception where people from all walks of life came together to see art, and came to ask questions and learn about each other as people of Illinois celebrating the creative and thoughtful life. This kind of experience does not happen at the Chicago galleries I showed in, it doesn’t take place in the colleges I have taught at, lectured at, not across class and race in this way. This only takes place at the Illinois State Museum.

This letter is to express my reasons why the Illinois State Museum should remain open. I hope to bring a different perspective by highlighting my personal experiences.

The State Museum has been a large part of my life for almost 10 years. I joined the Museum's Tech Academy program in 2005. This two year, after school program met twice a week at the Research and Collections Center and taught students about the Natural Sciences and Archaeology. We had talks from curators, hands on projects, and tours of the collections. A large part of the program was also dedicated to learning about the Computer Sciences. This skill was invaluable for me because I had no prior experience with computers. During the summer of the program we spent 2 weeks at the Center for American Archaeology in Kampsville, Illinois working at an archaeological site. After my 2 year program ended I returned as an intern for the next 1 year program, and then a Teachers assistant for the final year in 2009. As a homeschooler, being involved in the Tech Academy program contributed immensely to my education.

Being a volunteer at the Museum for several years now I have helped with countless special events, summer camps, spring greeting, and was also part of the first group of volunteers to be trained for the Play museum when it opened in 2011. During my time here I have had the privilege of interacting with and teaching many wonderful people and families. Over the years I have overcome my shyness, learned responsibility, and built social skills that I will always be able to use.

I've always agreed strongly with the Play Museum motto, "Learning Through Play". I believe children learn better when knowledge is presented in a fun and interactive way. As one of the few museums in the area that encourages this, it would be a great loss to the community if it were to close.

When I started my own woodturning venture at age 15, I joined the Illinois Artisan program. This provided a great outlet to sell my work and participate in other artistic events. Since this helped me get established, my small venture has since grown into a full-time, profitable business.

In conclusion, the Museum has helped make me the person I am today. I have made personal and professional relationships that I hope will last a lifetime. It would be a shame to see these opportunities denied to anyone else.

Karli White
442 West Allen
Springfield, IL 62704

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I was employed at the Illinois State Museum for 20 years primarily as an Archaeologist identifying animal bones from archaeological sites and as an Educator with the Museum's summer and after-school program "Museum Tech Academy". My position was funded through contracts and grants; I was not a state employee.

I know that to many, the term "Museum" brings forth the image of static exhibits and dioramas, but unless we have had reason to go into "the back" of the Museum, many of us don't realize the wealth of information available to us through the hard work of the Museum personnel. I have always found that the Illinois State Museum has strived to use its research and the experience of the curators and staff to enhance and broaden the knowledge of its visitor community. Our extremely successful Museum Tech Academy brought Springfield area students (primarily underserved students) and their families into the Museum, into "the back" where they learned how and why Museum scientists develop and conduct their research and then how to transfer that knowledge to others through presentations and exhibits (displays at the Museums). This was an intensive program for the Middle and High School students, but it is also what the Museum does for all of its visitors. Working in the Research and Collections Center it was common to find that a visitor at the Main Museum downtown was sent to us so that we could better answer their questions. At the RCC we would pull out the trays of bones, the geologic maps, the pollen cores, the fossil specimens, that particular quilt - to help answer their questions - and many times for us to learn from them. Yes, the Museum is internationally known for much of the research its scientists have conducted and published, and the curators are well known and respected because of the quality and amount of work that they perform - but the Illinois State Museums are also very much part of our community. The Illinois State Museums are not just buildings housing exhibits, but rather they answer questions, develop new knowledge, safeguard our history and provide ongoing learning experiences for young and old. I believe that the Illinois State Museums are a bridge in an ever growing gap in our education/life- long learning (again, for young and old) that are too important to lose.

July 22, 2015

Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

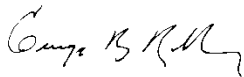
Thank you for having a public hearing on July 13 on the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum and all its facilities as part of the Governor's effort to achieve a balanced budget for the state. I understand that at the hearing there was little recognition of the negative economic and legal impacts of such an action by Director Wayne Rosenthal of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), wherein the Illinois State Museum is currently situated administratively.

I have written to you previously in opposition to the closure directive, but I now wish to emphasize the costs of this closure initiative. These costs have been identified with losses of touristic and citizen visits to the communities where Illinois State Museum facilities are located, an estimated total of some \$33 million annually according to the Illinois Office of Tourism. However, I believe there is a much greater cost in the loss of reputation by the state of Illinois that has already been engendered by the closure directive. This is evident from most of the letters you have received on the issue from people around the world and from the great number of protest comments on social media sites. This reputational loss will be reflected not just in lack of touristic interest and dollars, but also in failure to retain the residency of people who have grown up in Illinois and value its cultural and natural heritages. Businesses are also less likely to invest anew in Illinois when the governmental leadership apparently disparages such valuing of its own people and their natural and cultural heritages. As you heard from the three mayors who testified, museum facilities are also community centers that help with community development and growth. A final note is that institutional relationships worldwide that affect the research and education endeavors of the well qualified staff of the Illinois State Museum will be impaired now, and may cease to exist in the future if the closure does proceed.

Hopefully, you will also advise the Governor that the legal ramifications of closure were inadequately covered in the materials and testimony to the Commission by DNR. If the Museum system is closed, the State will likely become subject to various lawsuits related to the curatorial agreements for collections that require access for research and education (from the Peoria Tribe, the Center for American Archeology and other non-profits, private businesses, and federal agencies including the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior). In addition to the Peoria Tribe, lawsuits will likely come from other federally recognized American Indian Tribes for failure to provide access to archaeological and ethnographic collections and to respond to inquiries as required by the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Private citizens who have donated their precious family heirlooms and other collections to the public trust of the Museum for research and education will also likely file lawsuits. Many of these issues were raised in the oral and written testimony to you by those opposing the closure directive.

In dealing with the already evident negative consequences of the closure directive, your Commission might well consider advising the Governor that he was clearly given an insufficient assessment of the negative economic impacts and the potential lawsuits that would likely result from closure. The Commission should also consider encouraging the leadership of the General Assembly to situate the Illinois State Museum more securely as a vital unit of government representing and supporting the state's cultural and natural heritages and futures in all their diversity. Another consideration in this regard is to strengthen the state-private partnership that the Illinois State Museum has already developed that significantly supplements State funding. In this connection, no alternatives to closure were discussed by the DNR with the Museum's governing Board of Directors before the closure was announced through a press release. I hope that for the benefit of all citizens of the state you can attend to these concerns about the Illinois State Museum system in a most affirmative fashion that recognizes the immense values of this extraordinary institution and its great professional staff.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George B. Rabb".

George B. Rabb

July 10, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Katie Kolokithas, 6252 Baldwin Circle, Brighton, Michigan 48116

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an archaeologist, architectural historian and historian who attended Graduate School in Illinois and lived in the state for a number of years. The ISM system is a world-class museum system and one I have had the opportunity to conduct research at for a number of years. The ISM Collections Center has an amazing staff and I was honored to be allowed to work there during the New Philadelphia Archaeology project in 2008.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM

The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.

The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.

ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the

knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.

Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.

ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.

The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

YOUTH EDUCATION

The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts "Saturplay," a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM's summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.

2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.

Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration,

Kathrine Kolokithas



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-3210

(805) 893-2257
FAX (805) 893-8707

Christina M. Friberg, M.A.
Department of Anthropology
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3210

July 21, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and
Accountability ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum

Dear Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability:

I am writing to express my opposition to Governor Rainer's decision to close the five Illinois State Museum facilities. I am an archaeology PhD student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and my research focuses on the Cahokia Mounds site and the large scale cultural influences the city had on the entire Midwest in the early 12th century. So far, my research has been made possible by accessing existing archaeological collections housed at both the Dickson Mounds Museum and the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Even this early on in my career, I have been able to conduct two separate studies of Midwest archaeology through the analysis of existing archaeological collections, without putting a shovel in the ground. The Illinois State Museum collections house a wealth of information just waiting to be discovered; some of the oldest collections have never been analyzed at all. With good curation of both archaeological material (artifacts) and archival material (field notes, maps, and photographs), the collections can fuel decades worth of research. However, if Governor Rainer's plan passes, these collections will remain untouched, locked away to never be seen again. If that happens, all of their research potential is lost; it would essentially be as if these sites had never been excavated in the first place.

I am not a native of Illinois, but I have grown to love your state over the years I have worked there. Not only does present day Illinois have a vibrant culture, but it has for thousands of years. Most of the locals I have met in both Fulton and Greene counties (where I work) have expressed to me an interest in and admiration for Illinois' prehistory. Archaeologists are answering new questions about the past that the public have the opportunity of learning through museum exhibitions and public talks. Shutting down the Illinois State Museums will sever this tie, not only making it more difficult for archaeologists to conduct research in the state of Illinois, but also depriving its residents of access to the fascinating history that is all around them.

Finally, the potential closure of the Illinois State Museum system has significantly impacted my current research. I had received funding to stay in Springfield for two weeks this summer to analyze the collection from previous excavations at my dissertation site in Greene county. The resulting data would be used to substantiate hypotheses I am presenting in grant applications to fund my dissertation. I was informed shortly after the governor announced his plan, that I would no longer be able to visit the museum to conduct my research, and furthermore,

that the staff were so busy dealing with the closure, that it would not even be possible for them to temporarily loan me the material for analysis in my lab in Santa Barbara. Luckily, if I can receive funding, I will still be able to conduct excavations next summer, but then I will hit another obstacle. Where will I curate my collection? Archaeologists are required to curate the material they excavate in approved facilities that will maintain the collections and make them available to future researchers and to the public **in perpetuity**. If the Illinois State Museum closes, I will be limited in my choices of curation facilities and my material will be housed in a separate location from the existing collections from the site (housed at the ISM). Furthermore, although the governor said the collections at Illinois State Museums would be maintained, it is unclear what this entails. If the facilities are closed to researchers, the state is engaging in a breach of ethics whereby it agreed to curate collections for the purpose of preservation, education, and future research in perpetuity.

I am presenting only one perspective on the Illinois State Museum closure, but I ask you, who will benefit? Will the researchers currently working on projects involving ISM collections? How about the up and coming scientific minds who chose to do research in the great state of Illinois? Or the local residents eager to find out what we can learn from the excavations conducted on their neighbor's farm? And the children, inspired to ask questions, to dig deeper? None of them will benefit. And I urge you to ask yourselves whether the state of Illinois in general has anything to benefit from the closure of its five highest regarded scientific, cultural, and educational institutions. The governor is truly picking on the little guy here, yet his decision will have significantly greater consequences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ch Friberg'.

Christina Friberg, M.A.
PhD Candidate
Department of Anthropology
University of California, Santa Barbara
christinafriberg@umail.ucsb.edu

July 18, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure, 703 Stratton Building, Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Dr. Luci Kohn, Ph.D.
24 Ginger Ridge Lane
Glen Carbon, IL 62034
LAPKOHN@AOL.COM
(618) 210-9536

Facility being closed: **Illinois State Museum System**

Position: **Opposed**

I am writing to **strongly oppose** the proposed closure of the **Illinois State Museum System (ISM)**. I am writing as an Illinois citizen, as well as a research, educator, and parent.

I am an Associate Professor in Biological Sciences at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Much of my research relies on natural history collections from museums. While I have been working with museum collections for over 25 years, I have been working with research collections at the ISM for 11 years. Numerous undergraduate and graduate students working with me have also benefitted from their experiences with these collections. The combination of historical, cultural, natural history, and archaeological collections of unusual breadth and depth as are found in the ISM's collections is unique. In the 138 year history of the ISM, thousands of researchers, both in Illinois and across the country, have experiences like mine. **Closure of the ISM would have a significant negative impact on my research program, and that of many others in the research community.**

The ISM has more than 13.5 million accessioned objects. The museum staff is composed of highly trained professionals from prestigious institutions. The ISM is nationally accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, an accomplishment that is matched by only about 5% of museums in the country. Closure of the museum would cost the state this accreditation, and it would be very costly to achieve this honor again. In addition, closure of the museum would result in the loss of this highly trained staff, and the expertise and institutional memory of much of the materials. Once the museum reopens, it would be difficult to replace the staff.

The ISM has had a crucial role in educating the public, including more than 40,000 Illinois school children annually, in areas of art, history, ecology, natural history, archaeology, Native American Heritage. In addition to the physical museums, they maintain an excellent web site that can be the public's introduction to these features of Illinois. ISM helps people understand the world around them, including an appreciation

for the role of the natural world in our society. This is a vital role of a museum, and has an significant impact on millions of people. This may be the only way that many state citizens may have such close contact with these materials.

The ISM has an extensive anthropology collection, and is the lawful repository of artifacts collected on public land. This includes agreements with the St. Louis District of the Corps of Engineers. Burials that are excavated in Illinois, especially those on projects funded by federal money, are curated at the ISM. ISM also curates the extensive artifacts from Dickson Mounds and Cahokia, both unique archaeological sites. The ISM has agreements with the Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma (formerly Illinois) to curate their funerary objects. The individuals have a legal right to have access to their funerary objects.

While the cost of supporting the ISM is approximately \$6.29 million dollars, the ISM is also involved in generating state and local funds through tourism throughout the state. Visitors to the ISM spend approximately \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year, and an additional \$8.4 million dollars are generated through goods and services. Federally funded grants to the ISM bring in approximately \$2 million annually. Closure of the ISM would still cost Illinois considerable money for basic maintenance of the structures and ensuring that the collections are not destroyed by neglect. Additional costs of closure could come from law suits from individuals who have donated materials to the museum with the stipulation that they be available to the citizens of Illinois, and Native American groups to allow curation and access to their cultural heritage. **Given that the ISM brings in much more money than its cost of operations, it does not make sense to close the museum.**

Consideration of closure of the ISM does not seem to be in best interest of the citizens of Illinois. Closure of the ISM will have a negative economic, educational and reputation impact on the state and its citizens, and will have minimal positive effect on our budget crisis. While I understand many of the issues associated with Illinois' monetary problems, this does not seem to be a viable step in process to solving our budget issues.

In summary, I request that you recommend against closure of the Illinois State Museum System. Perhaps a more constructive consideration would be the imposition of admissions or user fees.

Sincerely,

Luci Kohn, Ph.D.

22 July 1922

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

Name: John E. Kelly

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum (ISM)

Position: Opposed to ISM closure

Written Statement Filed

Email: jkelly@wustl.edu

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing as a citizen of the great State of Illinois, husband, father, and grandfather and am expressing my unequivocal opposition to this proposition. I was pleased to attend the hearing on the proposed facility closing of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) and its satellite facilities. I felt like a twelve year old sitting in the judicial chambers of the capitol and looking up with awe at the details.

My career as an Archaeologist has placed in constant involvement with the ISM since the early 1970s. I can only speak with the greatest degree of respect I have for the personnel and this institution which is pivotal to my research (I will address this in a separate statement). More importantly it is the opportunity for me to have been able to take my family to these wonderful facilities and for our children and now our grandchildren to learn of the rich natural and cultural histories of the Land of Lincoln. One of our children has gone on to find employment at the Field Museum in Chicago as a collections manager. I want to stress as others have that the ISM has been in existence for nearly 140 years and that it and the state have weathered at least two World Wars, our country's worst depression, along with other social and economic issues of the last half century. The ISM documents the legacy of our wonderful state and despite the current fiscal problems I fully believe that this institution should continue into the future for the sake of all our children and grandchildren. It serves as the "corporate" memory of our state. I believe the various speakers at the hearing fully articulated the importance of the ISM as an educational institution that greatly augments the classroom experience of our children.

While we all understand the difficult financial position the state has been in for the last 15 years, especially after the onset of two recessions, 2001 and 2008. It was sad to learn of the decline in revenues for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) of which the ISM is part. Director Rosenthal indicated that his agency has gone from \$128 million in 2001 to a budget of \$42 million last fiscal year. And I realize most other state agencies have witnessed similar declines in revenue. I honestly don't believe the state can continue to cut and remain a viable place for our people. While the nearly \$5 million dollar budget for the ISM is a little over 10% of the IDNR, its cost is miniscule within the overall budget of the state. This is a case of being "penny wise and pound foolish."

In closing I want to emphasize, when we as a family visit the ISM we spend money in Springfield, Havana, Lewistown and Lockport. This has a positive economic outcome for these communities and this creates a quality of life component that is critical to these communities, the families, and businesses that generate the tax revenues needed for the State to exist. Let's think outside the box and make all our state agencies viable for the future.

I hereby respectfully ask that the commission recommend the Illinois State Museum remain open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John E. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "K".

John E. Kelly
502 Dianne Ave.
Columbia, IL 62236

Governor Rauner,

I am writing to protest the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum, Dickson Mounds, and the related artisan outposts.

History is one of the most delicate specimens that the Earth has to offer. It creates itself, but it cannot protect itself. It moves toward dark, dusty corners, piles dirt atop itself to try to hide. Yet it carries more weight than most of us can imagine, especially now, in this rapidly and dramatically changing world. History works invisibly, coloring our perception of the world and of ourselves, and informing important decisions that may in turn change the course of history itself. Furthermore, a public unaware of history is not only doomed to repeat itself, but to not even truly *know* itself.

Determined historical preservation, however, gives us the context with which to make sense of the present. It reminds us that there has scarcely been a time when the world was *not* rapidly or dramatically changing: From the massive glaciers that shaped Illinois over 13,000 years ago, to first contact of Native Illinoisans with European settlers, to the emergence and continued evolution of American culture, and into the present and future with all their innovations, artistic wonders, and tragedies. The State Museum does the best job of any resource I know in synthesizing these changes in natural and cultural history into a captivating story that helps us place ourselves in time, in humanity, on Earth, and in Illinois.

Especially to the open mind of a child, the Illinois State and Dickson Mounds museums are portals of imagination and inspiration, fostering curiosity with education and visceral wonder. Many of my early memories are from visits these museums: The towering skeletons of mastodons and giant sloths, the ghostly, reverberating voices of Dickson Mounds' Indian Burial Chamber exhibit, creatively inspiring enormous musical instruments that stretched across State Museum's art gallery in a 1990s exhibit. These early museum experiences, along with countless others, were formative to my understanding of where I come from and how the world works.

More recently, I greatly enjoyed the recent art exhibition of poetry infused with visual art. I have also enjoyed volunteering at the State Museum's Research and Collections Center, a facility that has employed my parents to conduct archaeological research into the heritage of Illinois for over 25 years.

The Illinois State Museum is an invaluable resource for people young and old. It fosters in its guests a curiosity to learn about the Earth and all its inhabitants. Once instilled, this curiosity stays for a lifetime, and is then passed down like an heirloom to ensure future generations of artists, scientists, historians, and dreamers.

I plead to you, Governor Rauner, do not interrupt this priceless cycle. Once history is lost, it is difficult to recover. You will not want to go down in history as the governor who endangered his state's future by dismantling an important pillar of scientific research, historical preservation, and community education. The continued operation of the Illinois State Museum is far more important to the future than the meager budgetary gains that would result from closing it.

Karl Schroeder
Urbana, Illinois

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

RE: Letter in support of the Illinois State Museum System

Dear Governor Rauner,

As members of the Geology and Geography section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science we are gravely concerned by news that the State of Illinois is contemplating the closure of the Illinois State Museum System. We feel that the loss of this outstanding resources would be a severe blow to the citizens of Illinois and also to the broader scientific community. As you know the Illinois State Museum system has acquired international prominence in the scientific community for its seminal publications and databases. The scientists at the museum, for example have long been trend setters for studying past environmental change and its impact on plants and animals. The work of Dr. Russell Graham and Dr. Eric Grimm have been particularly noteworthy, whereas the Neotoma database, which was developed and is currently maintained at the Museum by Grimm is an essential reference for all Quaternary scientists working in North America. The Illinois State Museum also serves as an invaluable asset to the residents of Illinois serving as both a magnet for attracting business and a resource for the public and K-12 schools. In this increasingly competitive world the closure of the Illinois State Museum would be a great setback to the state as a whole and in our opinion would only enhance rather than alleviate the

financial problems facing Illinois. We therefore request that you reconsider the proposal to close the Museum and find other less catastrophic means to deal with the current budget crisis.

Sincerely Yours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul H. Glaser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul H. Glaser
Research Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, MN
Member-at-Large, Section of Geology and Geography
American Association for the Advancement of Science
(612) 624-8395
glase001@umn.edu

Jere H. Lipps
Director, John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center, Santa Anna CA
Professor Professor Emeritus, Department of Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley
Secretary, Section of Geology and Geography
American Association for the Advancement of Science
jlipps@berkeley.edu

CC:

The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate

The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives

Tim Nuding, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget

The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate

Wayne Rosenthal, Director, Department of Natural Resources

Aaron Winters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Office of the Governor

Mike Zolnierowicz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor



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July 21, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Name: Frank Butterfield
Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System
Position: Opposed
Type of Testimony: Written Statement Filed
Email: ButterfieldF@lpci.org

To the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

On behalf of Landmarks Illinois, the leading voice for historic preservation in Illinois, I am writing to oppose the closing of the Illinois State Museum System.

In addition to activities as a nationally-recognized museum, the Illinois State Museum serves key preservation duties for the State of Illinois. This includes the cataloging and administration of archeological records in coordination with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency as well as curatorial responsibilities for archeological remains.

Closing the Illinois State Museum System would put these critical services in jeopardy. We ask that you please vote to keep the Illinois State Museum System open at its current funding levels.

Respectfully,

Frank Butterfield
Director, Springfield Office
Landmarks Illinois



THE OHIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL
P.O. Box 82012 • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43202

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building,
Springfield, IL 62706

22 July 2015

Dear Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Ohio Archaeological Council Board of Directors and members, I urge the State of Illinois to reconsider the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum system. The Ohio Archaeological Council is a private, non-profit corporation registered with the State of Ohio in 1975 as a charitable scientific and educational organization promoting the advancement of archaeology in Ohio. The Ohio Archaeological Council consists of professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, and interested students of Ohio archaeology. As an organization dedicated to the professional study and preservation of archaeological resources in Ohio, we are deeply concerned that an institution so highly respected and valuable to the State of Illinois is slated for closing.

The Illinois State Museum (ISM) maintains scientifically valuable and irreplaceable collections that not only document the rich cultural and natural history of Illinois, but provide a nearly limitless source of archaeological and anthropological data. The proposed closing of these collections to researchers severely hinders scientific advancement in Illinois and across the nation. Equally concerning is the termination of the valuable educational and public outreach programs of the ISM, which serve hundreds of thousands of adults and children across the region each year. As an organization concerned with public education, the OAC appreciates the importance of such programming and opposes the proposed elimination of such a long-standing and successful effort by the Illinois State Museum. We urge the State of Illinois to seriously reconsider the proposed closing of this fine museum system.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Genheimer

Robert A. Genheimer, President
The Ohio Archaeological Council



THPO

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

6650 EAST BROADWAY, MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858

PHONE (989) 775-4751 • FAX (989) 775-4767

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

My name is William Johnson and I'm the Curator/Interim Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan (SCIT).

Along with Ms. Shannon Martin we serve as the SCIT's Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Designees. Ms. Martin is the Director for the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways as well.

Together we work cooperatively with the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians (PBPI) for the repatriation of Native American human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. MACPRA consists of eleven (11) Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and two (2) State Historic Indian Tribes in the State of Michigan.

MACPRA's constituent Tribes include the Bay Mills Indian Community; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa; Hannahville Indian Community; Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians; Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi- Gun Lake Tribe; Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi; Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan; Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians.

The Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan is concerned about the potential closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) and future NAGPRA consultations with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations including the SCIT.

It is our understanding that the ISM will still have NAGPRA responsibilities for all NAGPRA eligible items even if the museum closes. The SCIT has the right to consult on NAGPRA eligible items in the ISM's collections and wishes to exercise that right.

We are also concerned with Dr. Robert E. Warren's (ISM Curator of Anthropology) assertion to Mr. Marcus Winchester (PBPI THPO) that the ISM doesn't know how it will be able to proceed with ongoing and future consultations if the closure occurs.

NAGPRA exists for the repatriation of eligible items to Native American Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations and the ISM's uncertainty about working in compliance with Federal law is particularly troubling.

I can be reached at 6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, wjohnson@sagchip.org or 989-775-4730.

William Johnson

Curator/Interim Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

22 July 2015

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: ***Profs. John A. Long and P. David Polly, President and Vice President, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology***

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

On behalf of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP), we urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability recommend against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System. We are the chief officers of the SVP, a diverse organization of approximately 2,500 scientists, students, artists, preparators, advocates, writers and scholars across the globe, who are dedicated to the study, discovery, interpretation and preservation of vertebrate fossils. Many of our members have a long-time working relationship with the scientists at the Illinois State Museum (ISM) and our ability to understand the record of life through time relies on the research collections stewarded by the ISM and elsewhere.

The continued stewardship of the collections at the ISM is of paramount importance to ongoing scientific research, both in Illinois and around the world. The Geology Collection is of special interest to the SVP because it contains more than 200,000 fossil specimens that serve the dual purpose of documenting the conclusions of past scientific research, thus ensuring scientific verifiability and reproducibility, and as a source of data for new, synthetic research. Paleontological science, whether it is focused on questions at a regional or global scale, relies on data assembled from collections like those at the Illinois State Museum, which contains material that cannot be found elsewhere:

- *Mazon Creek.* The ISM holds one of the most important and extensive series in the world from Mazon Creek, Illinois, a site with unusually exquisite preservation that records soft bodied organisms from the Carboniferous geological period, about 300 million years ago. The GoogleScholar database records more than 1,300 scientific research papers that have made use of the ISM's Mazon Creek holdings.
- *Pleistocene and Holocene of the Midwest.* Another key area of strength of the Illinois State Museum is its Pleistocene and Holocene collections from the Midwestern United States. These periods are the most recent chapter in Earth's history from about 2.5 million years ago to the present, colloquially known as the "ice ages" because of the climatic cycles that resulted in large ice sheets covering North America and Europe every 100,000 years. These periods are of special interest today for scientists trying to understand the mechanisms of climatic change, the relationship between global changes in climate and their regional manifestations, and how ecosystems respond to climatic changes. Humans first entered the New World during this period and these collections provide the primary evidence for the environments, vegetation, and faunas that they encountered.

These collections are held in stewardship by the Illinois State Museum on behalf of the people of Illinois, the Nation, and the global scientific community. Closure of the ISM would put these collections in grave danger because they are unlikely to receive quality care or to be accessible to the research community without an active curatorial and research program. The significance and prominence of the ISM collections, which among other things form the core of the FaunMap and Neotoma databases used by the scientific community, scientific demand on the ISM collections will remain strong into the indefinite future. The holdings in the ISM collections were placed there because the State of Illinois operated them as a public trust repository with the



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

9650 Rockville Pike • Bethesda, MD 20814-3998
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FEIN: 06-0906643

same responsibilities to the scientific community as other state, university, and national repositories. Closure of the ISM will create chaos in the scientific community and jeopardize continued progress in paleontology and other fields that rely on research collections.

We urge you to consider not only the public educational exhibits in your deliberations, but also the scientific infrastructure of the ISM. The Illinois State Museum and its collections are crucially important to the international scientific community of vertebrate paleontology.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'John Long'.

John A. Long, Ph.D.
President, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
and Professor in Palaeontology
School of Biological Sciences
Flinders University
Adelaide 5001
South Australia

P. David Polly, Ph.D.
Vice-President, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
and Professor
Department of Geological Sciences
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

July 22, 2015

[Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability](#)

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Jennifer Jaskowiak, Rockford, Illinois

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an art historian, museum professional, and an employee of the Illinois State Museum, based at the Lockport Gallery. I hold a BA in Art History and Business from Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, and earned a Master of Arts in Art History and Museum Studies from the University of Southern California. In total, I have 26 years of experience as a curator of art and 11 years of experience as an instructor of Museum Studies on the graduate level. Following a one year internship at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, I returned to USC in Los Angeles as Curator and stayed there for 16 years. My husband and I made the decision to return to Illinois to raise our daughter in the state where I grew up, so I took a position at the Rockford Art Museum and then, for the last eight years, at the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery.

I oppose closing the ISM as I stand against leveraging the cultural history to which I have dedicated my career to protect. These objects are not toys. They hold inherent historical, social and aesthetic value which cannot be replaced. As we tell our first-time student visitors---“We cannot go to the store and buy a new {fill in the blank} if this one gets damaged. We must protect what we have now—all 13.5 million objects—to the best of our abilities and, while doing so, we must both enjoy and learn from these objects in a safe environment, such as the gallery spaces of the Illinois State Museum.

By now, the Commission has received letters of support for the ISM based on reasons ranging from economic and legal impacts to the personal dedication and talent of the staff. I wish to address how we work as a unit—how the satellite sites, the main museum, and the research center are interconnected in our mission. The satellite sites include the Chicago Gallery, the Southern Illinois Art and Artisan Center, and the Lockport Gallery. At these sites we focus on the art, artists and cultural history of the state of Illinois. Each site is staffed by talented, dedicated art curators who actively research, interpret, and present the arts of Illinois throughout the state. We each have different histories and bring a variety of experiences and expertise to the table. The exhibitions that we curate are not done solely for our home sites, but are curated to travel through the system, visiting each site around the state over an 18-24 month period. This way, citizens and visitors all over Illinois can enjoy each exhibition and the

institution maximizes the research, time, and work of the exhibition curator. Some of our exhibitions are curated entirely from the permanent collection. When appropriate, curators will borrow objects from artists, private lenders, galleries, and other institutions. Quite often the fine arts curators take an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating objects from archaeology, geology, zoology, anthropology and the archives into exhibitions, deepening the presentation of our cultural story. The last exhibition I curated on "Sketch," for example, included archaeological sketch maps from 1895 and 1953, species identification drawings of turtles and turtle skeletons from zoology, and Native American turtle rattles from our anthropology collections. These were exhibited alongside examples from fine art sketches and finished works, demonstrating to visitors the broadest application of the sketching exercise.

No satellite stands alone. Staff from each is in constant contact with the main museum in Springfield, but also in regular communication with fellow art curators at other sites as we work together to bring a well-rounded series of cultural exhibitions, programs, and events to the people of Illinois. On a daily basis, we serve the public. We are on the front lines, greeting visitors to our sites, answering questions not only about our own exhibitions but about, for example, the history of the Illinois & Michigan Canal where we are located. We field inquiries to help people learn about their family treasures, provide authentications of objects, and guidance as to how to obtain appraisals. We interpret two centuries of Illinois art for visitors of all ages, encouraging each to find at least one object to which they can relate. With specific regards to the Lockport Gallery, it is 1) accredited by the American Alliance of Museums just as our main site is and 2) it is the only art museum in the Southwest suburbs.

Bottom line, I *chose* to return to Illinois from California to raise my family. Bottom line, I was and still am thrilled to be a part of this system where I can share my expertise practice my profession. Bottom line, closing the Illinois State Museum and satellites would do nothing but damage Illinois's bottom line.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Jaskowiak
Curator of Art
Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery

310 Warren Ave, Rockford, IL 61107
jaskowiak1965@gmail.com
815.904.0102



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-3210

(805) 893-2257
FAX (805) 893-8707

Mallory A. Melton
Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3210

July 27th, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum

Dear Members of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

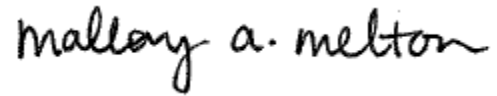
I write to you today in order to express my strong opposition to Governor Bruce Rauner's call for closure of the Illinois State Museum and other affiliated facilities. During my tenure as a graduate student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, I have witnessed the essential contributions that the staff and collections at these facilities have provided to my own research projects as well as those of my advisors and colleagues. I am currently working in collaboration with my advisor, Gregory Wilson, on a project which will propel radiocarbon dating efforts in the Central Illinois River Valley into the future through experimenting with new advances in Bayesian analysis. Given that this project requires access to collections at the Illinois State Museum, it has been forcibly put on hold until the state museums can be reopened. As a second-year graduate student, I aspire to continue conducting archaeological research in Illinois. If the museums remain closed, the scope of my future research prospects will undoubtedly be limited.

The Dickson Mounds Museum provides essential storage opportunities for researchers affiliated with universities located far from Illinois. All of the employees at the Dickson Mounds Museum have provided the conditions and space necessary for storing University of California, Santa Barbara field equipment. Non-local researchers would not be able to conduct fieldwork in Illinois if facilities like the Dickson Mounds Museum did not exist.

Finally, in addition to the vital contributions of these facilities to furthering research in archaeology, history, and many other fields of inquiry, the Illinois State Museum and Dickson Mounds Museum provide outlets for citizens of Illinois and many other states to gain increased awareness of and respect for Illinois history while simultaneously producing state revenues in excess of their operating costs. They offer an imperative service to the public which scholars, especially those like me who live and work far away from the geographic center of their research interests, cannot often provide. Public outreach efforts at these museums have tangible, positive implications for archaeological research. Through providing the public with venues in which to learn more about archaeological research methods, the benefits of site conservation, and the unique contributions of systematic excavation, the Illinois State Museum and its affiliated museums mitigate the destruction of archaeological resources within the state and beyond its borders. In closing, I urge you to critically consider the detrimental implications that the museum closures would have for not only researchers, but also for citizens of and visitors to the state of

Illinois. The Illinois State Museum and other affiliated facilities provide essential resources and services that cannot be gained through any other means other than their continued operation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mallory A. Melton". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and slightly larger than the rest of the letters.

Mallory A. Melton
Graduate Student
Department of Anthropology
University of California, Santa Barbara
melton@uemail.ucsb.edu



CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY

1 Wade Oval Drive, University Circle
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-1767

(216) 231-4600 | (800) 317-9155
WWW.CMNH.ORG

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building,
Springfield, IL 62706
facilityclosure@ilga.gov

July 20, 2015

Dear Members of the Commission:

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) is Ohio's largest museum devoted to the study and interpretation of the natural sciences. The Museum was incorporated as an educational and scientific institution in December 1920 and opened its doors to the public in 1922. CMNH urges the State of Illinois to reconsider the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum system. As an organization dedicated to the professional study and preservation of natural history and anthropological collections, we are deeply concerned that an institution so highly respected and valuable to the State of Illinois is slated for closing.

The Illinois State Museum (ISM) maintains valuable and irreplaceable collections that not only document the rich cultural and natural history of Illinois but provide a nearly limitless source of scientific data. The proposed closing of these collections to researchers severely hinders scientific advancement in Illinois and across the nation. Equally concerning is the termination of the valuable educational and public outreach programs of the ISM, which serve hundreds of thousands of adults and children across the region each year. As an organization concerned with public education, CMNH appreciates the importance of such programming and greatly regrets the proposed elimination of such a long-standing and successful effort by the Illinois State Museum. We urge the State of Illinois to seriously reconsider the proposed closing of this fine museum system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Evalyn Gates".

Evalyn Gates, Ph.D.
Executive Director & CEO



Cahokia Archaeological Society
645 Pleasant Ridge Road, Fairview Heights, IL 62208
(618) 397-1377

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

Name: Cahokia Archaeological Society, Larry Kinsella, President

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum Complex

Position: Opposed to ISM closure

Written Statement Filed

Email: megalithics@hotmail.com

Commission Members:

The Cahokia Archaeological Society (CAS) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit volunteer organization and a local chapter of the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology (IAAA). The IAAA has already expressed to you their concern with the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) and its associated facilities. I have been authorized by CAS membership to express our opposition to the closing of the ISM.

We understand that fiscal steps need to be made to try to recover from the budget crisis, but total closure of the ISM system does not seem to be a logical step towards recovery. Illinois would lose one of its major tourist draws, an excellent educational facility, and a caretaker of the state's historical, archaeological, geological, scientific and artistic heritage. We would recommend that alternative measures be considered rather than total closure.

The ISM is the official repository for materials recovered from State lands and the Research and Collections Center houses millions of artifacts from prehistoric and historic sites throughout Illinois, as well as botanical, faunal, fossil, mineral, and other specimens. The ISM also archives and displays art and craft materials created by Illinois artisans and those from other states and countries. It supports many other museums and institutions with the loan of its collections for research and exhibitions, and if these materials are recalled it will have a negative impact on these institutions and their ability to share the story of Illinois, its history and natural history.

We are concerned about the security of the collections and exhibits if there is not sufficient staff to maintain them and the facilities that house them. We are also concerned about the many grants from federal and institutional sources that the professional staff has obtained and how those will be reconciled.

We join with the many voices of the citizens of Illinois, organizations and institutions and their concerns about closing this prime example of a superb educational and scientific facility and losing its highly respected and professional staff as well as the complex problems such a closure would create.

Please reconsider the proposal to close the ISM and dismiss its staff and consider other options other than total closure. The citizens of Illinois will be grateful.

Sincerely,

Larry Kinsella 22 July 2015

Larry Kinsella, President
Cahokia Archeological Society

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES



Publisher of Journal of Herpetology, Herpetological Review, Herpetological Circulars, Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles, and three series of books, Facsimile Reprints in Herpetology, Contributions to Herpetology, and Herpetological Conservation

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Gainesville, FL 32627-5638, USA

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Illinois Legislature
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

17 July 2015

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles to oppose the recent proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum.

The Society for the Study of Reptiles and Amphibians is a scientific organization established to advance research, conservation, and education concerning amphibians and reptiles. The Society was founded in 1958 and is the largest international herpetological society. Our membership includes university, museum, and zoo professionals and others with an interest in study and conservation of these reptiles and amphibians.

The Illinois State Museum was established in 1877 and has served the people of Illinois for 138 years through its research on, conservation of, and education about the objects that tell the history of the state of Illinois. Many of the scientific collections are nationally and internationally significant. The Zoology collections house over 150,000 specimens, with noteworthy comparative osteology and freshwater mussel collections emphasizing Midwestern species. There are over 200,000 specimens in the Geology collections including Paleozoic plant and animal fossils from the Midwest, particularly the Mazon Creek site in northern Illinois, and important Midwestern collections of Pleistocene mammals, including the Boney Spring assemblage from the western Ozarks, which is the largest assemblage of American Mastodons from a single site.

The scientific collections of the Illinois State Museum play an irreplaceable role in research and training for many faculty and student visitors each year from US and international institutions. Most importantly, the Museum is critical for educating the people of Illinois about their cultural and natural heritage. It is an intellectual resource for the state and to allow it to close would send the very negative message to the world that Illinois does not value its own heritage or the educational and research missions of the Museum.

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES



Publisher of Journal of Herpetology, Herpetological Review, Herpetological Circulars, Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles, and three series of books, Facsimile Reprints in Herpetology, Contributions to Herpetology, and Herpetological Conservation

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Aside from the critical roles that the Illinois State Museum plays, it should also be noted that the Museum generates tourism revenue and, through the work of its staff, brings in grant dollars as well. The Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles strongly urges you to recognize the significance of the Museum to the people of Illinois and to keep it open and fully functioning.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron M. Bauer', with a long, sweeping underline.

Aaron M. Bauer
President, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

To the commision regarding the closure of the Illinois State Museum

I am very much opposed to the possibility of the Governor considering the closure of the Ill. State Museum. There have been many letters to the Editor of the State Journal newspaper regarding this matter. I would like to add my two cents worth. In addition to being a valuable resource to our capital city for teachers, researchers, Parents and children, it is one of the very few places to go that is free. Not everyone is rich as the governor, or comes close to being. But if the money is needed so desperately, why not charge a small fee for entrance to the facility. A small fee of \$1.00 or \$2.00 for adults, \$5.00 for a family and children under 12 years of age free. This makes more sense than closing the building.

* As a former docent I truly appreciate this museum and in addition to being a wonderful learning place for people of all ages, it brings in tourism, and our city is always looking for tourists to have a reason to stay overnight to aid restaurants, motels, etc.

Please keep our museum open!!
Thank you for your time and consideration.

A concerned citizen of Springfield Illinois,

Sincerely,

Margaret Joann Herr

Margaret J. Herr
6 Owens Lane
Spfld. Ill. 62704
phone (217) 793-3292

* Due to age and health reasons
I had to give up volunteering at our
great museum, but I still visit with
young grandchildren, (using a walker!)



*Department of English
Language and Literature*

To: Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner
Members, Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Donne Trotter, SENATE, Co-Chair of CGFA
Donald Moffitt, HOUSE, Co-Chair of CGFA

Dear colleagues:

News has reached New Mexico that legislators and the Governor of Illinois have plans to close and eliminate the Illinois State Museum.

You might wonder why anyone in New Mexico would care. But that question would only be asked by someone unaware of the national importance of the Illinois State Museum. Though its primary function is to serve the residents of Illinois and the State's legislature, the Illinois State Museum is a beacon, professionally, for many different activities, nationally and internationally. Closing the institution would end up severing not just services to the people of Illinois, but to a much wider group. If necessary, an admission fee might be possible – though this is not progressive, meaning that it hurts people of limited means more of those of the middle and upper classes. But even that solution would be far preferable to dismantling an institution represents Illinois to the world.

Beyond its role as an agent for economic development; beyond the fact that it holds those things that the people of Illinois hold most sacred to their heritage; beyond these, you're closing a way of bringing tourists and travelers to your state, an integral part of tourism, economic development, and historical understanding for the State of Illinois.

I became familiar with the Illinois State Museum at a scholarly conference two years ago. I was surprised at the variety and extent of its holdings and, as part of my consulting work for the National Park Service, recommended that the museum be brought into the national consortium of research institutions on America's favorite road, Route 66.

The Illinois State Museum is thus integrated with institutions from the Autry National Center in California all the way to Illinois. Our consortium, the Archives and Records Collaborative on Route 66, is in the planning phases now of a national grant to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which would bring outside funds to the Illinois State Museum. (This would be a large grant, and if the institution is closed, it obviously can receive no funds.)

In conclusion, closing the Illinois State Museum – as opposed to smaller and more local institutions around Illinois – would be a major mistake. It's kind of like cutting off a toe because you can't fit it into a sneaker.



*Department of English
Language and Literature*

Your State Museum brings tourists, travelers, researchers, local museum visitors, those planning a “staycation” in Illinois – all these groups will be hurt by an unwise decision to close this major institution serving the people of Illinois.

Even though I don’t fit into that last category, I have visited the Illinois State Museum as a tourist, and I can tell you it is user-friendly and an effective use of state dollars. Let’s hope that sounder minds prevail and the State’s museum is not closed. What’s next? Closing the state archives as well?

Best wishes,

Dr. David K. Dunaway
Professor of English
University of New Mexico

I wish to express my dismay at the proposed closing the Illinois State Museum System in an effort to improve state finances. The Illinois State Museum System, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, has told the story of Illinois' life, land, people, and art since 1877. I urge you to consider the positive educational, research, and economic impacts of these sites, at very little cost to the state.

Katherine Wooldridge

Please don't close Illinois state museum ..I've been taking my kids there for 13 years i have a new one who needs to go there please keep Illinois alive

sincerely
lana bottoms

Attached is a letter I sent to Gov. Rauner's office last week. Closing the museum facilities is bad for the culture of the people of Illinois and also bad for business. It will probably cost more than it will save. Don't do it.

Ginny Lee
Springfield, IL

June 19, 2015

Dear Gov. Rauner,

I am writing today to express my great disappointment with your decision to close the Illinois State Museum in Springfield and its satellite institutions throughout the state.

I am 67 years old and have visited the Illinois State Museum since I was six years old, living in Mt. Vernon, IL. Our family would visit Springfield several times a year and usually stopped at the Museum. I have many fond memories of time spent there.

As a mother of two daughters, I frequently took my children to exhibits and special events at the museum. It was part of their education.

In 1989 I became a photographer. Shortly thereafter I saw a wonderful photo exhibit in the basement level of the Museum by Chicago photographer Joan Moss. She showed portraits made with infrared film. I was intrigued by the effect of that film and began experimenting with it myself. Over the years I made

many landscapes and portraits using infrared film, and that helped build my reputation as a photographer.

As a writer, I have written numerous reviews of outstanding art exhibits at the Museum for the *Illinois Times* newspaper.

I became a member of the Illinois Artisans Program fifteen years ago as a photographer. I have sold work in the shop at the State Museum and exhibited work in the Chicago IAP shop. I currently have photographs in an IAP show at the Robert Morris University Gallery on State Street in Chicago.

My friend Joe Hennessy designed the children's play area at the Illinois State Museum. It is a wonderful facility with many creative opportunities. My three-year-old granddaughter loves going there when she visits Springfield. It would be a shame if the Museum is closed when she visits again in August. She will be very disappointed.

By closing the Museum, you will impact numerous vendors and businesses, such as those who participate in First Fridays—vendors like Coopers Streetside Eatery food truck, Five Flavors Catering, Rolling Meadow Brewery and Danenberger Family Winery. Hundreds of talented ISM employees will of course lose their jobs. The ramifications go on and on.

Please reconsider this extreme, unprecedented idea of closing Illinois State Museum facilities.

I am opposed to the idea of closing the Illinois State Museum. As one who has done his fair share of traveling around the state, I know we have a great museum. And to close it would mean closing one of the best archeological sites that is available for the public to view: Dixon Mounds. I ask that you please find some other way to balance the budget without closing the State Museum.

Harry VanHoudnos III

For a state set to celebrate its 200th anniversary, the idea of closing state museums (but for Lincoln's museum) seems incredibly shortsighted. Is the only history in Illinois worth remembering that of our most famous resident? Where are future generations going to learn about Illinois' first peoples, its archeological record, its settlement and eventual statehood, its leaders - civic, political, of the arts and sciences? The amount required to operate the museums seems a pittance compared to the budget as a whole, so why is our Governor interested in such low hanging fruit, when other areas might better be cut, or other revenue sources might be considered to save Illinois history?

Lisa Higgs

I have been to the Illinois State Museum (ISM) multiple times throughout my youth and adult life. It is a great place for everyone to visit and it is a great landmark for Springfield and Illinois as a whole. Educating our youth and providing them with safe and friendly places to visit is an important aspect to every successful city.

I attended Illinois College (IC) and the ISM and IC work together to provide many amazing internships and opportunities for not only myself, but also other students. These internships are valuable resume-building opportunities and have helped many further their education and careers.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the closure of the Illinois State Museum.

John Zimmerman

I am writing to protest the closing of the Illinois State Museum. It is an invaluable resource of material that preserves the understanding of our state and region. The collections there have no equal. The materials available for researchers and historians cannot be found elsewhere.

Please keep this important facility open and funded. It is shameful that our state is even considering closing our state museum.

Sincerely,

Diane Sutliff
3000 W Eastwood Ave
Chicago, IL 60625

Please do not close the museum. All Illinois citizens benefit having this terrific museum open for all the people to visit. The amount it cost each person in Illinois annually is very small. Make your cuts on the rich instead of the common people who visit the museum. My taxes should have some benefit to me.

Beverly Fagan
512 w. Nevada
Urbana, IL

Most Americans are familiar with the large institutions like the Smithsonian, American Museum of Natural History, and the Field Museum. Even more are familiar with the institutions that serve them on a state and local level. These museums are stewards of our cultural and natural heritage, explorers of what we don't know about our past, present, and future, and educators of our youth, families, and lifelong learners. They represent a societal investment over decades in capital projects, innovative programs, and scientific research. State museums, in the past, have given an excellent return to taxpayers in the form of their services and educational outcomes, particularly in comparison to prisons and other long term state expenses.

As a person who has worked in, around, and for museums for 45 years it has been my pleasure to visit the Illinois State Museum and its branches a number of times, including in a role as a visiting committee member for the American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Program. The Museum has been a leader, not just among State museums, but among all American museums in terms of scientific research, fulfillment of statutory requirements for archaeological and environmental projects, stewardship of its collections and facilities, relationships with Native American tribes and other constituencies, exhibits and public programs, and as an important factor in tourism that supports the communities where it operates.

The proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum would stop the beating heart of your collective memory, lead to the violation of existing contracts and statutory requirements, add to the unemployment rolls in your state, harm the communities where the branches are located, endanger the cultural and natural heritage of your state, and serve as a glaring reminder of legislative failure just a short distance from the seat of State government.

The phrase "penny wise and pound foolish" comes to mind, and it is my hope and that of many others that collective wisdom in the Legislature will dictate that this significant institution stay open and in service to the people of Illinois even as budget struggles continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice an opinion from a national perspective.

Arthur H. Wolf
Principal
WOLF Consulting
3870 E. Flamingo Rd., Ste. A2, #151
Las Vegas, NV 89121

Museums are the cultural repositories and learning centers for the public. They are entrusted to care for and preserve our history, so that the public may learn about their past for generations to come. To say the very least, closing the Illinois State Museum would be a tragic mistake.

When times are tough, visitation to museums increases. When a teacher wants to make history come alive for their students- so they can become more vested in their own history- they go on museum field trips. When tourists come to town and want to learn about the area, they go to the museums. And what better authority on state history is there than the STATE museum??

Aside from the cultural repercussions, what about the monetary ones? If you aren't keeping tourists in your town because there's not as much to do there, then they are not there anymore to shop in your stores, eat at your restaurants, or stay in your hotels. This closure wouldn't just affect the ISM, but all the other business that benefit from tourism. If no one is spending money, then there aren't as many tax dollars to collect. That's not just shooting yourself in the foot, but shooting yourself in BOTH feet.

Once someone's mind is made up on a thing, it is very hard to get them to change. However, I hope the decision to close a place that has such an effect on thousands of people does not rest with one person. The arts always seem to get cut when there is a budget shortage, which is the most ridiculous thing to do. The arts, and specifically this museum, help us learn about who we are. Without culture, what do we have left??

I am a former employee of Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site (another site that was temporarily closed a few years ago for budget reasons), and I graduated with my Masters in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University. I have worked as a museum curator for the State of Wyoming for the past nine years. And, I am AGAINST closing the Illinois State Museum.

--

Sharie Prout, Curator
Trail End State Historic Site
400 Clarendon Avenue
Sheridan, WY 82801

My family & friends greatly enjoy the Illinois State Museum. It's often our rainy day destination for the kids in the summer. We also enjoy the various exhibits they display, for example: quilts and funeral art

Erin Scott

Please don't close the museum it's one of the very few educational places to fo in central Illinois. Too far to drive anywhere else.

Sincerely,
Anne Posegate Schwimley

I am adamantly opposed to the closing of the Illinois State Museum. Such facilities are critical for public education and as a repository of items of regional cultural/historical significance. Closing this museum would be very shortsighted and would create a long term void. The material housed at the museum is the property of the people of Illinois and they have a right to have access to it. As a child, my favorite place to visit was an analogous facility in Des Moines, Iowa, and those many visits nurtured my interest in natural and cultural history and my decision to pursue geology and archaeology professionally.

Jill Onken

To whom it may concern:
Re: Illinois State Museum

As a leader for the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, a mother of 3, and an aide at Saint Aloysius school; I am deeply concerned at the removal of educational resources in this area. We have such a limited number of museums in the area it is extremely detrimental to lose this wonderful place. Especially since we are losing resources that are inexpensive and widely available to people who may not have the financial ability to attend places like The Field Museum in Chicago.

You are cutting resources that impact our children is impairing the future bright minds of our state. You never know how many people might feel the spark to become a historian, a scientist, an archeologist, or any other number of wonderful careers; after visiting the museum. I personally would much rather have a state full of inspired, educated children who continue learning outside of the classroom.

Thank you for your time

Heather Schmidt
Concerned Citizen, Mother, and Educator

To whom this may concern:

I write in strong opposition to closing any or all of the Illinois State Museum system locations. These are treasures to Illinoisans of all walks of life. An alternative I would support would be creating a system of charging admission to enter the museums, with "free days" on select days of every month to help drive foot traffic.

These museums serve Illinois and help draw bright individuals to our state, which is vital at this time of economic challenge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Steven M. Simpson-Black

718 N 5th St, Apt 2
Springfield, IL 62702

I am opposed to the closing of the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. It is an important part of the education process in central Illinois. There is nothing like it for hundreds of miles (possibly at all) that shows our state's history. With it gone, there will be nothing to replace the void it will leave.

Regards,
Justin Tarr

The Illinois State Museum is a resource for teachers and students, draws tourists, houses the largest collection of artifacts of Indians, provides livelihood for artists throughout Illinois, employs internationally-known researchers and experts, provides career opportunities for students, provides curriculum for teachers across Illinois, and hosts hundreds of school children on field trips each year. It is a total lack of foresight to close the Museum as it is something that should be promoted not closed.

Cinda Klickna

A lesson for the Illinois governor:

From: George Steiner, "The Idea of Europe", Overlook Duckworth, New York, 2015. Preface by Rob Riemen, p. 27:

"Culture, like love, does not possess a capacity to compel. It offers no guarantees. And yet, the only chance of attaining and protecting our human dignity is offered to us by culture, by liberal education.

Artists and intellectuals shouldn't be king, shouldn't even strive to be king or part of a power elite. But a society that ignores enablement of the spirit, a society that does not cultivate the great humane ideas, will end, once again, in violence and self-destruction"

When a State is run by a corporate hack, who does not want to raise income taxes to help to close a budget deficit only to protect himself and his ilk from paying a fair share, a tragic consequence is this (among other damages affecting the community): <http://www.sjr.com/article/20150610/NEWS/150619927>. Illinois' cultural assets are now being torn apart by this because of such disastrous policies, e.g., part of the closing has been taking place, among others art works from the artisan shops and loan shows being returned to the artists (which included my works). Now, if nothing will be done, the State Museum will be closed. As usual, the arts (and often also science) is the first to go.

In closing, the governor seems to forget how much money the arts bring in indirectly by way of taxes coming from patrons visiting or attending cultural events. The organization listed below did a comprehensive study and the arts raise MUCH more money than sports.

In view of the above:

<http://www.artsalliance.org/support> important advocacy now particularly relevant in view of the Governor's disastrous policies regarding the Arts in Illinois. I sent them some money (and have been a long-time supporter).

--

Bert Menco, Ph.D.

Though I reside in Missouri, I am a former resident of the state of Illinois and I want to register my vehement opposition to the possible closure of what should be considered a state gem – the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. The museum represents the cultural heritage of the state of Illinois, and houses valuable collections of art and historical artifacts. Not only does the museum preserve these many important aspects of Illinois' history and culture, the Museum also plays an active role in research, both as an institution and as a support system for scholars who study its collections. There are also many published facts about how important art and visual culture is to the advancement of school children, so I don't think I have to quote these here, but it would be criminal to do away with, or make

inaccessible such an important cultural resource. Your present and your past is reflected in the Museum's collections and exhibitions. Do you really want to close the museum and become nationally and internationally known as the state that cut out culture? Your Museum should be treated as a crown jewel to be shown off state-wide, as well as nationally and internationally, not disposed of as some sort of "frill." Same goes for all the other State cultural institutions that might also be in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales, Director
The Sheldon Art Galleries
3648 Washington Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108

Gretchen E. Knapp
Facility: Illinois State Museum
Position: Opponent
Record of appearance only

In my view, speaking as a private citizen who is not an employee or staff member of ISM, there is something deeply wrong with the governor's vision for economic growth and establishing a more pro-business environment in Illinois when it ignores the importance of both the public and private sectors to the economic health of our city, region, and state.

How does holding public sector science (and science education) programs hostage in budget negotiations help our economy?

How does laying off scientists, curators, technicians, IT and support staff of all kinds aid our community or our state?

It does not make sense.

I fully oppose the closure of the ISM for very specific, practical reasons. Closing ISM will deprive all of us of a full range of economic, scientific, cultural, and community benefits.

First, closure will (and is even now pushing) many people with talent and expertise out of Springfield. These people will find jobs elsewhere, probably out-of-state, and not return.

Who would want to work for a state (or refer their colleagues to work for a state) where they and their families' lives are suddenly up-ended in the course of a political power struggle?

A closure would force out exactly the kind of people we here to support economic growth, i.e., highly educated and well trained people.

We will also lose the recognition (and grants) that ISM garners regionally, nationally and internationally. Their expertise and published research alone does much in and of itself to enhance the reputation of our state.

We have no difficulty understanding the importance of attracting expertise to Springfield when it comes to hiring and retaining talent into our medical, financial, service, construction, and retail sectors. Surely we must put just as much effort into attracting and retaining talent in STEM / STEAM fields and more generally in science and education.

Second, those who work at ISM contribute to larger local and regional communities and businesses in many ways, Their research and the museum's exhibits attract area visitors that include journalists, writers, artists, politicians, scholars, and tourists. These visitors go to other downtown and area attractions and businesses.

Third, the staff at ISM have been involved in substantial outreach efforts, e.g., the large and carefully planned children's play area. It is the only one like it in this area. It was established only a few years ago and this came about through the energy and resources freed up by hiring (not laying off!) scientists,

curators and other staff. The work of ISM scientists and other professionals also led to the expansion of the museum's regular and summer educational programming for children and more recent programming for adults and families (as well as the continuing brown bag lecture series in which researchers share the results of their work with anyone who wishes to bring their lunch and listen!).

The children's programming and play area are especially remarkable because it helps kids to engage in the investigative process and to learn about their Illinois heritage. The play area (and other programming) also gives families, both locals and visitors, a great place to take their kids to burn off their energy (especially in the winter!) while stimulating their curiosity.

It is not easy to create or replicate such a resource. The long process for developing and funding the proposed "Kidzeum" in Springfield--not yet complete-- attests both to the community's need of this resource and the difficulty of creating quality spaces for children.

Fourth, ISM's outreach does not stop there. The scientists and other professionals provide forensic resources to local police and law enforcement; internships and practical fieldwork models or experiences to college students; consultation and teaching to area universities (including UIS and its field station at Emiquon, a highly respected preserve and research center); and more general outreach and community service programming to area K-12 schools: e.g., coaching Lego League, doing presentations about STEM careers, etc.

Finally, in relation to real short- and long-term costs of closing ISM, one must consider the following: You cannot simply lay everyone off, lock the doors, and walk away. There are valuable resources (equipment, ancient and historical artifacts, documents, computer / electronic media, the contents of exhibits, etc.) that must be monitored, tracked, stored, and cared for.

Given all of this, why in the world would we shut down ISM? Especially since the proposal to close ISM does not reflect a carefully considered budgetary choice and does not fit into any real fiscal plan?

Why is supporting public investments placed in opposition to supporting business when we need both?

The most disturbing thing about this debate is that the proposed closure has been put forward in service to a political battle between our governor and legislature. Unfortunately, if ISM is closed, whenever this battle is over and however it may be resolved, all of us in Illinois and beyond will have to live with the many losses imposed on us with little hope of recovery without substantial reinvestment.

Please do not let this closure effort go forward.

The governor and legislative leaders should be able to work together without destroying or damaging important resources for the families and citizens of our community and state. We did not vote for the thoughtless, politically motivated destruction of community and family resources or for the wanton

waste of the well established public investments. The public sector is foundational to the economic (and other kinds of) enrichment for our state. Public institutions must be supported even as we continue to find ways of supporting new and current businesses and industries in our state.

Good governance would involve us in a conversation about both kinds of investment. Not a rush to closure.

Thank you,

Donna Bussell

Please do not close the museum. It will negatively affect thousands

Nancy Marquette

Please do not close the museum. It's where I take my kiddos to have fun as a single mom it's something I can do with them that doesn't strain my already strained budget

Kristin Goetz

I want to make an official statement to protest the closing of the Illinois State Museum. Closing down this institution both saddens and horrifies me. How could you possibly justify eradicating the artifacts, stories, and artworks of an entire community? This will all be lost to generations of people who can no longer use ISM as a space to reflect, understand, question, and experience the cultural and natural history of Illinois. This is not an option.

I was fortunate to have received a grant at ISM to work as the Monticello Intern in Museum Education from 2011-2012. This experience was pivotal in my growth as a recent college graduate and young professional. As an intern I had an incredible group of mentors in the Education department, got to learn through hands-on experiences, was able to attend professional development sessions and workshops, and pilot programs. It was truly a wonderful experience that propelled me forward in my career as a Museum Educator.

Closing ISM will not only negatively affect the employees, but have you thought about the hundreds of volunteers? The future Monticello interns? The families that come to ISM to play and explore? Have you considered the innumerable amount of future visitors that you have seized this opportunity from?

I urge you to immediately reconsider. Do NOT close down the Illinois State Museum.

Kelsey Cyr
Visitor Engagement Coordinator
Columbus Museum of Art
480 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

It's the most unbelievable occurrence that anyone would consider the closing of a cultural imperative such as the IL State Museum. To use such a threat as a political weapon is unconscionable, shortsighted and ludicrous. And it is a threat the Governor is using to blackmail the legislature to pay attention to his temper tantrum. I would never, never vote for him in any future election because of this petulant act.

The IL State Museum is the holder of our history and has a very real place in the lives of Illinoisans, not to mention the visitors to our state who spend real dollars in support of our economy. The IL State Museum plays a key role in the lives of children and families throughout the state. I've participated in Saturday morning arts programs for children and spoken to parents who say their children insist on coming to the Museum every single week because they love the interactive programs that are provided.

For hard reasons of economics and soft reasons of impact in people's lives and ongoing education of our children, do not approve the closing of the Illinois State Museum system.

Dianna Smith

I am writing to state my opposition to the closing of the Illinois State Museum in Springfield as well as other State Museum locations around our state. This move is more than a punitive move to highlight the state of the budget in Illinois, it is a rebuke to the values its citizens when venues for the display of our history and cultural heritage, past and present are held hostage to political gamesmanship. Please reconsider this move and restore full funding to this important institution.

Thank you,

Michael Dinges

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very upset about the proposed closing of the five Illinois State Museums and perhaps inadequate funding for the Illinois Arts Council.

Illinois has always supported the arts. The very idea that the Illinois State Gallery and the Artisan Shop at the Thompson Center would be closed is highly disturbing. Artists depend on this type of venue to further their careers. The curators at these galleries do an excellent job. They would be out of work. This is appalling! The arts are an industry in themselves. They employ people and generate taxes. They serve to humanize the lives they touch.

Surely, the great state of Illinois could find other types of revenue so these galleries could continue to provide services to artists and the public. Also, the funding of the Illinois Arts Council should not be cut. They provide grants to non-profit organizations who then provide assistance to the arts and artists. The state of Illinois should not be run like a corporation. It must take care and assist its citizens.

Arlene Rakoncay
7615 N. Kildare
Skokie, IL 60076

The Illinois State Museum holds a unique place in Illinois as a museum that undertakes research and programs in natural history, anthropology, the arts, history, education, and conservation. Its collections of specimens and of data are important resources for researchers studying everything from geology to paleontology to ornithology to textiles. The publications of the Museum make important contributions to knowledge in all of these fields. The exhibits and educational materials from the Museum have an impact on thousands of schoolchildren and adults every year, giving them background information in everything from fossils and wildlife to technology and our history.

The proposal to close the Museum is portrayed as a money-saving necessity. But the financial costs of shutting down the institution and disposing of its collections will certainly be high. The state will also lose the benefits of those collections' presence, of the educational opportunities the Museum provides, and of the tourism that the Museum brings to the communities where its facilities are found.

I urge you to keep one of the jewels of Illinois government. Save the Illinois State Museum.

Mark Pence
Springfield, Illinois

To whom it may concern:

The Illinois State Museum is such an asset to the city of Springfield and the state of Illinois. It **MUST** stay open!

As a mother, I have taken my children to the museum so many times that they know their way around the large building. They have learned so much at the ISM, and they have always enjoyed visiting. The new children's area in the basement is top notch and such fun for kids of all ages. Allowing children to play as they learn is such an important part of their education.

As a teacher, I have taken students on numerous field trips to the ISM and considered them all a success. Springfield is too far from St. Louis or Chicago to easily visit their natural history and/or science museums, and we consider ourselves so lucky to have such a rich source of information so close to home. Closing the museum would be such a disservice to the countless schools in the central Illinois region who visit on field trips and outings.

If the ISM closed, it would truly be a tragedy. There is so much to see and do at this wonderful museum, from the Native American exhibit to the dollhouse sized replicas of Illinois homes through history, from the animal habitats throughout the state to the paleontologic specimens.

Why would we ever want to tell our next generation that learning doesn't matter, that science isn't important, and our history is meaningless? Closing the ISM tells our children just that.

Please consider the future of our state and keep the Illinois State Museum open for good.

Britt Holzmacher

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Cindy Arnett and I am the Supervisor of Waterford Township, Fulton County, Illinois. I am writing in response to the possible closure of Dickson Mounds Museum in which I am very much opposed.

We are a small community that was devastated in the 1970's and 1980's from the closure of International Harvester, laying off from Coal Mines, and the strikes and layoffs from Caterpillar. We as a community have just begun to pick ourselves back up again and are hoping tourism will benefit our growth. I am sure the books of Dickson Mounds do not show the amount of use that the grounds receives, but I can tell you that friends, families, schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H groups, etc... use this facility for many events/get togethers/learning sessions which also brings people through our community. This area is also utilized for Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive and the events organized by the

Museum. We have small businesses opening within a short drive of the Museum and prospects of more on the way.

The Dickson Mounds Museum is a major part of our community, please do not take it from us.

Of all the areas within the state budget to cut, the state funded museums should NOT be considered. These all benefit so many people of all ages that would never have the opportunity to enjoy and learn our Illinois history, nature, and culture.

Please use this as a Written Statement Filed. I will also give an Oral Testimony if necessary.

I am a Concerned Citizen of Fulton County, Illinois.

Cindy Arnett
Supervisor, Waterford Township

Please DO NOT close our state museum. We cannot sacrifice our history or our children's education in the name of affording more tax breaks for the wealthy. This urge to do away with any and all state-run programs before raising taxes is ridiculous. Show some common sense please.

Anne McKinney

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the possible closing of the Illinois State Museum. Museums like this one give students and families of Illinois an opportunity to have fun, learn, and experience the history of Illinois. Museums give kids hands on experiences and opportunities to ask questions. These museums provide employment opportunities in our state and attract thousands of visitors to Springfield every year. Please cut hours of operation if necessary, and ask for donations and/or entry fees. Closing the museum completely should not be an option.

Thanks for your consideration,
Jenelle Keene
Illinois resident and concerned parent and citizen, residing in Champaign,IL

Please keep the museum open.

Anne Logue

I am writing to strongly argue against the planned closure of the Illinois State Museum. I am a resident of Iowa. The Illinois State Museum is, quite honestly, the only reason I visit Springfield and spend money there. The museum closure will be devastating not only to Illinois residents, but also to those of us in surrounding states who love the museum and who participate in cultural heritage tourism. Do our tourism dollars contribute nothing to the state's economy and budget?

Sincerely,

Margaret Beck
808 Caroline Ave
Iowa City, Iowa

Please keep Illinois Museum open. We need every support to increase our education and cultural sharing in a climate that is closing off avenues to more critical thinking.

Anne Logue

I am writing to suggestion strongly that you do not follow through on planned closure of the Illinois State Museum. This would greatly hurt the economy of Illinois and Springfield. While I am a resident of Iowa I make regular visits to theThe Illinois State Museum because it is a fantastic museum. Frankly, the museum is the only reason I visit Springfield and spend money there. The museum closure will be devastating not only to Illinois residents, but also to those of us in surrounding states who love the museum and who participate in cultural heritage tourism. I would suggest that the state carefully reconsider this proposed closure.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hill
808 Caroline Ave
Iowa City, Iowa

I must strongly voice my position against closing the Illinois State Museum. Museums are vital to preserving the history of our communities and our state. They provide an essential connection between people and their past, their natural surroundings, and the past of people who came before them. As someone who works in a museum in Chicago, I can also tell you that closing a museum is extremely costly and difficult. Museums must follow strict guidelines when it comes to the artifacts they are called on to care for, and closing a museum means that these artifacts must be transferred into the care of other institutions. This is not an easy process. Closing a museum is not simply crossing an expense off a list.

Rachel Ramirez

Many people will quote facts and figures attesting to the importance of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). Though those numbers (whether they pertain to the number of artifacts in the collection or the number of annual visitors served) speak volumes, I prefer to comment on the general impact that a museum akin to the ISM has on the communal cultural environment. As an employee of a small non-profit museum, I understand full well the cost of running and maintaining a public institution. I understand that the state is in dire straits when it comes to budget. I also understand in such conditions the need to make certain sacrifices in the interest of the common good. That being said, a savings of 4 to 6 million dollars a year as an attempt to rectify a 3 billion dollar deficit is far from an equal exchange when one considers the value of access to a collection that houses millions of artifacts that speak to the shared history of Illinoisans and Americans alike.

Individual people get laid off on a regular basis. Economic crisis generally takes its toll on employment. Though the reality that dozens of people will lose their jobs should the ISM close is a tragic one, comparatively speaking, the impact of prohibiting access to the ISM's vast collection is paramount. Without mentioning the fact that the ISM contributes to the running of numerous branch facilities throughout the state, I can attest to the reach of the museum simply by stating that my own place of employment (the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington, IL) has already felt the tremors from the ISM's proposed closing. There are a number of artifacts and video segments that we expected to receive on loan from ISM and incorporate into our own permanent exhibits, which we are currently in the process of redesigning. When one considers the length of time that a permanent exhibit is generally designed to last, the lack of access to these artifacts is compounded exponentially. The loss of one artifact in one exhibit means the potential for tens of thousands of people to be stripped of the opportunity to view that object over the course of 10 to 12 years.

One must consider the impact that closing the ISM (even temporarily) will have on the reputation and the stability of the museum. But, one must also consider the immediate impact that the closure of the ISM will have on all other sites that will remain open but will be forced to compensate for the lack of access to a collection of artifacts that deserve to be seen, shared, and preserved by any number of people at any number of locations.

In short, closing the Illinois State Museum is not the answer to the state of Illinois's financial woes.

Hannah E. Johnson
Education Program Coordinator
McLean County Museum of History
200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701

Dear Committee:

I am against the closure of the Illinois state museum, along with the artisan shops in Chicago and Rend Lake. I am a member of the Illinois Artisans Program and these three shops have been carrying and selling my artwork for many years. We are trying to promote the arts and as an artist in Southern Illinois, I depend on these markets to promote and introduce people to my work (along with other artists) whose livelihood depends on the exposure having work in these shops. It angers me that the governor who has untold billions of dollars has the audacity of cutting the arts, when he could fund places with his own money! Just how much money does one person need to survive!! But, I digress.....life is not just numbers on a piece of paper, or balancing a budget....it is art and music and science. Funding for this place and child care and social services etc can be found if HB 106 (Financial Transaction Tax Act. Beginning September 1, 2015, imposes a tax on the privilege of engaging in a financial transaction on any of the following exchanges or boards of trade: the Chicago Stock Exchange, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Chicago Board of Trade, and the Chicago Board Options Exchange. Provides that the tax is imposed at a rate of \$1 per contract for all transactions for which the underlying asset is an agricultural product and \$2 per contract for all other contracts. Provides that the term "financial transaction" means a transaction involving the purchase or sale of a stock contract, futures contract, swap contract, credit default swap contract, or options contract, but does not include a transaction involving securities held in a retirement account or a transaction involving a mutual fund. Effective immediately.) would be passed. If I have to pay 8.25% for tangible items, why can't a tax be put on the transactions of the rich.

In conclusion, money can be found to fund these institutions...it is in the pockets of the rich.

Sincerely,
Karen Fiorino

I am writing to express my opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum. State funded museums are a crucial part of a civilized society and I believe they serve the public good. They are an investment in the public knowledge and in the intellectual life and identity of the populace. As a government you have an obligation to serve the public and I believe there are better solutions available if revenue must be raised.

Dr. John Pippen

As a citizen and taxpayer residing in Springfield, and as a retired educator who has always worked to promote the arts – including as an English teacher and stints as an historian and amateur musician giving talks in underserved communities for the Illinois Humanities Council’s Road Scholars program – I am adamantly opposed to closing the Illinois State Museum in Springfield and its satellite facilities around the state.

Whenever I visit the museums in Springfield and Dixon Mounds, I see family groups and children learning about our state’s geology and Native American heritage. The Springfield museum in the Capitol complex is also on the itinerary for elementary school tours of the state capital, and I have taken part in varied cultural and educational arts programming at Dixon Mounds. In addition, the Illinois Artisan’s Program offers an important outlet for artists and craftsmen who otherwise have difficulty in reaching consumer markets, especially in downstate Illinois where other outlets are not readily available.

Bottom line: The state museum and its programs put real dollars in the pockets of real Illinoisans, and create economic activity that should not be sacrifices to the extreme ideological agenda advocated by Governor Rauner and some members of the General Assembly.

-- Peter Ellertsen, 2125 S Lincoln Ave, Springfield IL 62704 (100th House Dist., 50th Senate Dist.)

I am shocked and dismayed that there is talk of closing the Illinois State Museum. State museums are repositories of precious specimens and artifacts of the region's natural and cultural history, and serve to educate the public on the state. I beg the state to reconsider this flawed decision.

Aldona Jonaitis
Director
University of Alaska Museum of the North

Fairbanks, AK 9977

I oppose the Illinois State Museum closure and feel this would be TREMENDOUSLY detrimental to the state of Illinois as well as cost more money in the long run.

- ISM programs and events spend about \$33 million in Illinois each year.
- ISM's facilities/grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy.
- ISM attracts about \$2 millions federal grants to Illinois each year.
- ISM operates six public facilities with \$6.3 million in State funding.

The ISM Impact Statement on Closing can be found at: <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search...>

Sincerely,

Madeleine McLeester

5317 S. Kimbark Ave.

Apt. 3a

Chicago, IL 60615

My Name is Dixie Little and for many years I volunteered during the months of April and May when the students from Illinois Public Schools came and toured the State Government Offices including the Museum. I would greet buses or students walking and tell them what Illinois State Museum had to offer them on their TOUR

Even for me as a retired office worker for a large corporation it gave me a education which I never knew Illinois had on a Free Basis to all students in Illinois Public Schools.

I still volunteer whenever needed for special events

If the Museum would be closed our Public Schools would not have the resources available for all students to learn about our great STATE ILLINOIS

Dixie Little
707 Freedman
Jacksonville,IL

To whom it concerns:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum facility. As an anthropologist and archaeologist at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, I have personally visited the collections of the ISM to complete my dissertation research. The ISM houses many important archaeological collections that can help improve our understanding of Native American tribes of the Midwest and how they interacted with Europeans in the past. Gaining this knowledge helps us develop better working relationships with Native Nations today, and some Nations, such as the Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma, rely on the museum to curate artifacts that belong to their ancestors.

Imagine if Congress decided to close the Smithsonian Institution, denying the public access to artifacts of our own cultural patrimony, such as the Declaration of Independence, Edison's lightbulb, or the "Old Glory!" Such an act would be unthinkable. Closing the Illinois State Museum would lead to financial expense, as tribes would need to move their collections elsewhere, and educational expense as well.

Denying the citizens and visitors of Illinois access to the museum deprives people of the ability to learn about their heritage. It also reduces the economic impact of tourism, which is a thriving industry in Springfield because of historic sites like Lincoln's home. To close the ISM would be detrimental to the ability of Springfield to attract tourists. Finally, researchers come from all around the Midwest to work with the collections of the ISM. When in town, they stay in hotels, eat at restaurants, spend time and money on other recreational and educational activities, and contribute to the economy.

Closing the ISM over what appears to be a budgetary squabble is short sighted, financially irresponsible, and petty. The governor should reconsider his position on closing the museum.

Sincerely,

Heather Walder, Ph.D.
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Anthropology
Honorary Fellow 2015-2016

I don't believe that the IL government can't find other places to cut money to keep our museums open. The waste that goes on in the IL government is unbelievable. My tax money is being wasted quicker than anything. Come on figure it out.

Kathy DePauw
Jerseyville, IL

I want to express my opposition in the strongest possible terms to the closure of the Illinois State Museum system. The Illinois State Museum (ISM), like all other state agencies and institutions, expected to sustain significant reductions under the current fiscal circumstances but its total closure to the public and the layoff of nearly all of its staff, makes no sense on multiple levels. It is appalling that one of the state's premier educational, cultural, and scientific institutions, a nationally regarded museum, is about to be thrown under the bus as a high value hostage in what amounts to a game of political chicken between our governor and the leaders of the legislature.

Beyond its payroll, the ISM system is a significant economic engine in its own right in terms of the tourism it attracts to its various facilities as well as the research dollars (federal and state grants and contracts) and private donations it brings in. While much of the public and many of elected officials see the museum only in terms of its exhibit spaces (places to go to see neat and wonderful stuff), the displays and exhibits are merely the tip of the iceberg in terms of the programs and efforts of the museum staff. There are large curatorial mandates (the acquisition, care, maintenance and study of vast collections of objects and information relating to the state's cultural and natural heritage), a wide array of educational programs and presentations that play out state-wide, as well as nationally and internationally recognized research by the museum's staff. The latter typically brings in about 2 million dollars a year. The State of Illinois has far better choices in the budget cutting process than simply shutting down the entire State Museum system. The closure will very possibly cost the ISM its national museum accreditation, a status that is difficult to attain and takes constant effort to maintain.

Even if the closure is of relatively short duration, it will take months (even longer) to recover from the dislocations associated with shutting down virtually all the ISM's on-going activities. The most crippling effect of the closure is likely to be the loss of many key staff members. Some will take retirement earlier than planned while others will seek employment in states where museums are more highly valued. The museum system is not like some state agencies, where many employees can be replaced fairly readily. Over the years, the ISM has recruited a cadre of high quality museum specialists and researchers, high quality professionals whose talents are likely to be in demand outside of Illinois. These individuals represent a huge body of talent and institutional knowledge, whose sudden loss will be extremely damaging. And after the closure, how is the Museum to recruit high quality talent to replace those who leave? What talented young professional would want to come to the Museum under the prevailing budgetary and political climate? The effects of the closure will be devastating.

Brian Butler
3110 Chautauqua Road
Carbondale IL 62901
Member, ISM Board of Directors
Carbondale, IL 62901

I am a volunteer at both the Illinois State Museum and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. I feel the state is less than ingenious in how they are addressing these two facilities. From the information I am aware of one of the main reasons for setting up the Presidential Museum as a free standing facility was the lack of accreditation . Apparently the Governor felt under a department this could not be obtained and now I understand he is willing to put the accreditation of the Illinois State Museum in jeopardy by closing the facilities. So I guess accreditation is not so important to him. As a volunteer I am aware of the Illinois State Museum's use by folks from all over the state in addition to educational facilities all the way from pre-schools, to elementary, middle and high schools and to some higher education classes. If you are really interested in some ways that the closure might effect these institutions, you may wish to contact some of the teachers or professors that have taken advantage of these excellent exhibits. When I had my young nephews during the summer they enjoyed the exhibits, especially the mammoths and the buffalo, the children's area where they could dig for artifacts and the movies offered. I also took my granddaughter, who was visiting from Missouri, to the Museum. She is a little older and was able to appreciate the preview movie and all of the actual exhibits and she also enjoyed the children's area including the microscopes.

I feel the money the state feels it is saving from these closures will lead to loss of many advantages the Illinois people have with these excellent facilities.

Betty Green
1040 S. Spring
Springfield, Illinois 62704

I want you to know that I am totally opposed to the closing of this facility. I do not know how anyone could even consider this a possibility. I have been an educator for most of my adult life in the State of Illinois and feel strongly about its history and its direction. How could anyone even consider such an option makes me wonder about the decisions that will be made by these leaders.

Arnold D. Farmer
200 Glasgow Dr.
Springfield, IL

OPPOSED to its closing! It is one of very few institutions that offer high-quality educational programs for free, so that ALL children can take advantage of learning opportunities. Please keep it open.

Thank you,
Pat Curtis

Retired special education teacher

The Illinois State Museum provides valued educational resources for our children, families and adults. This quality learning environment offers hands-on interaction with experiential learning in an age where much of how people learn is digital or virtual. Participants get to study dioramas and see actual burial sites from our common human history while learning about how people lived, worked and survived. Important Artifacts support the learning.

Museums of this kind are significant in helping people understand our common heritage; who we are and where we came from. This important learning center also provides information about our relationship to nature, connecting us to wildlife and holistic thinking about that connectedness. Cultural experiences in many forms are provided by this institution. The gallery exhibitions have been excellent, as are its many programs.

What do we value most, and who would deprive their children of the opportunity for growth and knowledge that places like the Illinois State Museum provide? It's time for all of us to support institutions that keep us centered on important cultural values.

--

Professor Rhea Edge
Chair of Fine & Performing Arts
Eureka College

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). The closure of the ISM would be a tremendous loss for the people of Illinois, especially those who reside in Central Illinois and have little opportunity to visit the private museums of Chicago and St. Louis. Furthermore, this unique facility offers, free of charge, all Illinois residents and visitors the opportunity to know and understand the natural and social histories of the State of Illinois, an opportunity that cannot be found elsewhere.

I grew up in Springfield, IL and have very fond memories of visiting the ISM with both my grade school and my family. It was at the ISM that I learned about the progression of human settlement in the region, the breadth and depth of biodiversity that Illinois has played host to, and the importance of a sense of place. As an adult I have had the great pleasure of taking my niece and nephews to the ISM, sharing with them a part of my childhood, as well as witnessing their intellectual development aided by the well-designed, hands-on exhibits for kids of all ages. In fact, the high quality of the recently renovated exhibits made me a little jealous and it seems to me that closing the museum after such a large investment was made within the last ten years would be akin to tossing money down the drain.

I understand that the State of Illinois has financial difficulties, but closing the ISM is not the answer. I urge you to consider looking into cutting legislators' and other elected officials' salaries before taking away a scientific and cultural resource from those who have far fewer resources. Surely that would be the more socially conscious and just thing to do in these circumstances.

Thank you for taking the time to read my Written Statement in Opposition to the Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum.

Respectfully,
Alicia Crain

--

M. en PU Alicia Crain
Voluntaria de Peace Corps México
Dirección General "Bosque La Primavera"

When an agency closes a museum it also closes its mind to how they got to where they HAD to close their cultural entities and all previous heritages are lost to the future.

IF we don't know where we have come from we do not have a bearing on where we are going and possess no more advantages to demonstrate to this and future generations the how, why, when, where, what and who preceded them and made/created the environments, both social and natural, they inherited, both good and bad, and how we might do better, live better and maybe plan better.

Therefore, a museum is NOT just about the past, it will ALWAYS have ramifications for the future. Without the spirit that goes into their interpretive presentations the spirit for respecting and appreciating the importance of history, whether that be natural, cultural or encouraging a single member of society to pursue the answers to benefit humanity as a whole are lost in the instant of a single generation.

There are ALWAYS opportunities to modify, consolidate and/or innovate changes that could save the core mission(s) and preserve, present and promote the facilities under your care.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love – we love only what we understand – we understand only what we are taught", Dioum Baba

Respectively submitted,

Calvin B. Smith, President/CEO
Legacy Museum Consulting, LLC
1747 Newton Rd.
Pueblo, CO 81005

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to go on the record as being against the closing of the Illinois State Museum, Dickson Mounds Museum, and the other Illinois museums proposed by the governor. Thank you.

Richard Fishel
RR 3 Box 178
Rushville, IL 62681

I am opposed to closing the Illinois State Museum.
Our heritage should never be held hostage for political gain. The amount needed is a pittance compared to so many other State expenditures. This is simply grandstanding and it needs to stop.

Ramona Boston

As an Executive Director of a State Museum of Natural History and Culture, I plead with the Governor of Illinois to preserve the valuable collections and exhibits of the Illinois State Museum. People, especially children, have trouble connecting to nature in our world of asphalt and concrete. They don't see the birds and understand that as they fly around they are distributing seeds. How can we expect to understand the connection of us and the apartment building in which we live without Natural History Museums helping us see and understand. Your museums helps people enjoy their world, history, culture, and makes them proud of Illinois. Please do not close your world-class museum. We will all suffer, but no one more than the people of Illinois who love your state.

Julie K. Stein

Executive Director

Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture

Univ of Washington | Box 35-3010

Seattle, WA 98195-3010

Obviously, giving up local jobs is insane. Jobs are the main engine that moves and enriches the economy. Rich people spend very little money compared to middle class people who are constantly pulling out the wallet to spend. Plus, the wealthy are far less likely to make multiple smaller purchases which generates more sales tax.

Besides educating the citizens of Illinois, it is a draw for tourists. One less draw for tourists, and they are far less likely to make the trek to Springfield to see this terrific museum that should not be missed. Unfortunately, fewer tourists mean fewer hotel stays, less money spent in restaurants, fewer tolls paid, fewer gifts purchased.

Tourists are a treasure when it comes to paying taxes to both the State and City. Most of them stay in areas where there are increased sales taxes applied. Also, most every move that they make, they generate a sale; between: hotel stay, multiple meals per day,

I thought the new Governor was about revitalizing the State. He seems hell bent on bring the State of Illinois down by discouraging job growth, decreasing taxes collected, and preventing Illinois from moving forward in a more profitable place looking toward 2020.

Denise Doppke

It is extremely unwise to close the Illinois State Museum. It will cost more to close it than to keep it open. The Museum will lose accreditation, which would be a huge embarrassment to the state.

The Illinois State Museum's locations in the State of IL Building in Chicago have been particularly important to my development as an artist. I have seen art there that I would not have otherwise seen. Both the gallery and the IL Artisans shop in that building are an oasis of calm and culture for busy office workers.

I have been a participant in the IL Artisans Program for over ten years and it's an important source of income for me. Closing the IL State Museum programs does harm to many state residents and will cost money in lost revenue as well. The closing is short sighted and wrong headed. This decision must be reversed.

Elaine Luther

My family loves this museum. The staff is always so helpful and knowledgeable. Springfield and Illinois will be less for its loss.

Susan C. Oliver

I grew up in Springfield, and the Illinois State Museum has been a constant in my life. As a child my parents and school teachers took me there. As I grew older I took children I babysat and then friends who were visiting from out of town. My neighbors were among those featured in the everyday life exhibits. It has been a valuable resource for people both in Springfield or just visiting. Providing easy access to information about the natural and cultural history of Illinois and providing space for Illinois artisans to display their work. I think it would be a great loss to the people of Illinois to lose easy free access to this resource of our history. It would be a loss to visitors to Springfield. It would be a loss to the school children of central Illinois and beyond. Please do not close the Illinois state museum.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Peura

To Whom it May Concern:

This email is my public comment in opposition to the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum. I believe such a measure would be short sighted and counterproductive for tourism in Springfield, as well as terrible for museum workers and people such as the artisans who sell their goods in the museum shop.

Please, please, keep it open. Do not allow the Museum to be used as a political pawn.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Popolis
Resident, Springfield IL

I've used this facility numerous times during my research in Iowa. This museum has an unbeatable collection of geology, archaeology, and natural history; probably the best in the Midwest. Seems amazingly short-sighted to shutter such a great facility. Future generations will be ashamed of your actions if you do.

Bill Whittaker

To CGFA

June 24, 2015

Please consider the following information, relative to the closing of the Illinois State Museum (ISM):

Illinois has long been fortunate to have high-quality museum facilities, staffing, and researchers. ISM has a critical education mission as a collaborator with colleges and universities around the state and nation. ISM facilities, research collections, and personnel play important roles in training new generations of scientists to solve emerging problems in conservation, geology, agriculture, hydrology, and diseases in populations.

My long experience with understanding and managing diseases in animal populations gives me a unique perspective on new global challenges arising from problems such as deforestation, widespread marine overfishing, shifting weather patterns, pollution, rapid movement of persons and populations, and geopolitical conflicts. Combinations of these events inevitably will lead to altered population and disease patterns in humans and animals. The recent experiences with human ebolavirus infection represent a vivid and frightening example.

A research collaboration that presently is being developed would bring together experts from disciplines such as mathematics, human and veterinary medicine, geology, anthropology, pathology, field biology, and climate. Our initial work would be directed toward tuberculosis, which by published estimates affects close to one-third of the present human population.

We would attempt to develop predictive mathematical models to enable world-wide health organizations to react more quickly and decisively to impending shifts of populations and diseases. Predictive mathematical models of disease patterns must be informed in a number of ways that include historical events, ecological influences, and various demographics. Specimens and other materials that are curated at ISM are critical to moving this effort forward.

I therefore urge that the Illinois State Museum not be closed. ISM is too critical to the future health of Americans.

Dennis F. Lawler, DVM

Fellow, National Academies of Practice

Disciplines: Diseases in animal and human populations

Biology of aging

Please do not close the Illinois state museum. It is a great facility, has important shows, and is a wonderful venue for Illinois artists.

Michelle feuer

I strongly support the use of State of IL tax dollars to be expended to maintain and keep open the IL Artisan's center at Rend Lake IL as well as all Illinois State Museums, State Parks, and other facilities long maintained and enjoyed by the citizens of this state. These facilities provide numerous opportunities for learning and education (a well educated work force is one that employers want to hire) and outlets for creativity and art produced by local citizens. The assault on public facilities is detrimental to the State and its citizens. Please continue to provide support for the heritage of the state of Illinois as well as its citizenry and its artisans.

Lorie Allen
1008 W Sycamore St.
Carbondale, IL 62901

Date: 25 June 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

I am one of countless graduate students who utilize the Illinois State Museum and its collection center for research. I received my Masters Degree from Illinois State University this May in Archaeology. It would not have been possible to complete my research without the Illinois State Museum Research and Collection Center (ISM-RCC) and its employees, specifically Dr. Terrance Martin. In fact, I have specifically chosen to continue my graduate education at Michigan State University this fall in order to resume work with Dr. Martin, the Illinois State Museum, and the osteological comparison collections housed in the ISM-RCC. If the Illinois State Museum is closed, current research in numerous fields will come to a screeching halt.

Not only does the Illinois State Museum maintain collections for both the arts and sciences, it is involved in continuing research, protecting cultural resources, and expanding knowledge in dozens of fields. Current archaeological excavations run through the ISM are not only important for the researchers conducting the studies but for community outreach and education. Both the Morton Village excavation and the Lincoln Home excavation encourage the public to visit and interact with the researchers, students, and volunteers working at the sites.

The purpose of this letter is to inform on the importance of the Illinois State Museum, and the NEED for it to remain open and accessible to the public and researchers.

Sincerely,
Autumn Beyer

Autumn Beyer
Michigan State University, Ph.D. Candidate
Illinois State University, M.S. Archaeology

The closure of the Illinois State Museum and its satellite locations is a foolish attempt to save a small amount of money at the expense of our state's rich cultural heritage. Closing any or all of these facilities would in fact cut educational opportunities for the state's K12 students, as well as higher education, research, and limit the development of scholarship. The museum should not be closed, nor should its employees be laid off. This institution helps grow our economic development through tourism, and the state is making another short-sighted mistake in its attempt to put Illinois back on its feet financially. Keep the museums open.

Sara Jatcko

I am writing to ask you to save the Illinois State Museum System, including the Illinois State Museum and Research and Collections Center in Springfield, Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown, and the ISM Chicago Gallery, Lockport Gallery and Southern Illinois Art and Artisans Center at Rend Lake. The Museum is an asset to the State of Illinois and the United States as a whole. It has vast and irreplaceable holdings in the arts, humanities and natural history. Its curators and other staff are the envy of academic institutions around the globe for their expertise and dedication to integrating science and the arts; their use of history writ large addresses today's world in innovative and perceptive ways. The Illinois State Museum System is of direct benefit to the Illinois economy. Its support by the State of Illinois since its founding in 1877 is a legacy and a testament to government funding at its best. Saving the Illinois State Museum System is an investment in Illinois' future. Doing so would send a message of hope that government still functions in the interest of the many.

I am a former employee (1975-1979) and long-time supporter,

Sincerely,

Marvin Kay
Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

My name is Jennifer Sublett and I am writing today about the potential closure of the Illinois State Museum facilities and artisan shops.

I am OPPOSED to these closures. The State Museum is an asset to the people of Illinois. The shops provide income to the facilities and to local artists/entrepreneurs. I personally go to the shops and buy Illinois products for presents. These facilities are free and open to the public, I do not see how a low income family could pay to visit a children's museum which charge high admission.

Thank you,
Jennifer

It often seems easiest to cut spending on items that don't affect people's everyday lives. No one would sit idly by while trash services were cut or policemen were fired. The safety and cleanliness of our society is of great importance. I argue that museums like the Illinois State Museum do affect people's everyday lives. While it may not be visited by every resident of Illinois every week of the year, it is often the only exposure that the average citizens receive about science. If we, as a country, are trying to encourage the development of STEM education and curriculums, then how is the closing of an extremely valuable STEM resource going to help us moving forward? Universities don't have the funding to pick up these institutions when the state backs away from its obligations to its residents. Cities don't have the funding. We are all facing significant belt-tightening, but I hope you will consider trying to find a better way to balance the budget. We've all had that childhood experience of gazing in awe and wonder at the giant skeletons of creatures that came before us. Please don't take that away from our children and grandchildren.

Jessica Utrup
Division of Invertebrate Paleontology
Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
170 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06510 USA

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose closure of the Illinois State Museum.

Summary -- The ISM's role in Springfield, surrounding counties, and the state is crucial to the education of children and families, the preservation and conservation of valuable, irreplaceable research collections; and the ongoing research for understanding of the interrelationships of this region's natural resources.

Personal statement – My first experiences at the ISM were with my father who took me to view the impressive dioramas, study the rock collections, watch nature slide shows and movies, and much more. At that early age, I became curious about the natural world and began a lifelong love of science.

A lot has changed since my first visits 50 years ago. Interactive displays and lively teaching-and-learning special events bring science and culture to life for visitors of all ages whose pace is much more dynamic than my early days. One of those younger visitors was my son who, since his own early days at the ISM, has gone on to serve as a volunteer docent in the museum, has been mentored by first-rate Illinois State Museum scholars, and is currently studying environmental science at a prestigious Illinois university. There, his research will push problem-solving bounds in the areas of food health and safety, scarce water resources, and flora and fauna conservation.

Those early days and the years since in the Illinois State Museum have been life changing for our family. I'm proud and grateful to support the Museum to the greatest extent possible.

For those less experienced – For many museum visitors, the depictions of natural history, culture, art, carefully preserved animal and plant specimens, hands-on displays, and engaging, lively discovery activities with parents, staff, and other children are rare exceptions to life spent in screen time. For these children, the museum is more than a gift – it is a lifeline right here in central Illinois to the world beyond the television and cell phone. It provides a vision of larger possibilities.

To this day, I love visiting the Illinois State Museum, attending special programs, enjoying the permanent and changing exhibits, and finding my place in an institution whose staff makes the most of its size, budget, volunteers, and resources.

The Illinois State Museum is a tradition and treasure that must not be squandered. Short-sighted people may say Illinois cannot afford this treasure. But a narrow-minded decision today will create a loss that cannot be reclaimed.

Please preserve the Illinois State Museum for today and all future generations.

Thank you,

DiAnne Crown
Springfield, Illinois

I am vehemently opposed to closing the Illinois State Museum. The closing will have little impact on the state budget; the damage it will cause our state's reputation, however, will be irreparable. Does our government want to send the message that it does not care about the history and culture of Illinois?

Amy Hathaway

My name is Candace Summers and not only am I the Director of Education at the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington, Illinois, but I am also a resident of Illinois and a frequent visitor of museums around the state. I am writing this email to voice my concern and strong opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum System. I feel this is a monumentally large mistake on the part of Governor Rauner. This will not benefit the people of Illinois in any way. In fact, I feel it will only hurt our great state even more. While I do understand that the financial situation of our state is dire, closing the Illinois State Museum System will only make it worse. In addition, the Illinois State Museum System, like other museums in our state, attract tourists from around the country and the world for that matter. Closing the ISM would mean lost income, income that could help improve the financial situation of Illinois. Museums like the ISM also enhance the quality of life for people of all ages in Illinois, in particular students. How else will students learn about our local history if not by visiting the ISM and other museums in our state? Students cannot learn everything in school, so museums must exist to supplement school curriculum. Museums are important educational assets: community anchors, places of engagement, trusted sources of knowledge and research, proven economic engines for our communities, and vital resources for our teachers and students. Museums are the repositories of our important artifacts and cultural memory. Museums play a critical role in the sharing of information, historical memory, and the preservation of important artifacts, archives, and collections. Losing the Illinois State Museum System would be a detriment to the lives of the people of Illinois and our nation.

A solution that would help the financial situation of the State of Illinois would be to charge admission as sites like the Illinois State Museum System. While this would not be a popular idea, it could work. I worked at a state historic site in Indiana about 12 years ago and the state of Indiana was going through a similar problem. State government was threatening to close the sites because there was not enough

money in the budget to keep them open or to maintain them at the same level of staffing as they had been in the past. Government officials decided to begin charging admission at all Indiana State Historic Sites, Museums, and State Parks to bring in revenue that would help keep the sites open. This did make many people unhappy and many voiced their displeasure at this, but in the end, people pay the admission and continue to visit these sites and as far as I know, none of the sites were forced to close. I do not expect to get into Museums free anywhere and if I do, I leave a monetary donation to show my appreciation for the facility I visit. I know not everyone does that, but you would be surprised at how many people appreciate Museums and are happy to pay to visit them.

While I do understand that we need to find ways to “trim the fat” from our budget, lawmakers should also be looking at new ways to generate revenue to pay for the services that the people of Illinois (and our nation) use every day. Shutting down Museums, cutting services, etc... is not the answer and will only hurt the people of Illinois who use these services to better their lives.

Thank you for taking the time to take my opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum System into consideration . I hope that lawmakers will be able to come together and work together to find a way to not only balance the budget, but to do so without closing museums and historic sites that preserve and protect our heritage and educate the entire world about the history of the great state of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Candace Summers
Director of Education
McLean County Museum of History
200 N. Main Street
Bloomington, IL. 61701

Opposed to the closure of the Illinois State Museum

Adam R Isley

I wish to add my name to those who have written expressing their shock and disbelief that such monumental facilities of education, our State Museum and its subsidiaries, are threatened with closure. This seems to be a completely ill-advised measure without any forethought as to what such a

threatened move will do against the education of our future Illinoisans, as well as the tourism of our state! I was told years ago that the greatest income for our State, next to agriculture, is tourism! Most of these facilities could not survive without the hundreds of volunteers who help to promote and maintain these precious sources of education for children and adults! Not to mention the professional people who staff the museums and their VAST knowledge in their fields of research.

I implore our elected officials to come to a decision SOON which will not involve the closing of our State Museums, whose budget appears to be a mere pittance in the broader scope of the state's budget.

MarySusan Farmer, BS in Art Education, Illinois State University

I am writing to ask your reconsideration of the closure of the Illinois State Museum. This action will serve no good end and will only cost the State of Illinois more in the dismantling.

My wife and I own a small pottery business in Alton, IL which has benefited from the existence of this museum and the associated Illinois Artisan's Program. Guidance provided by members of this organization helped us in our early years of owning our business where bachelor's degrees did not. Thanks to this support, we are successful entrepreneurs who employ several people.

Please recommend keeping the Illinois State Museum open and continue funding for the Illinois Artisan's Program.

Sincerely,
Chad Nelson

I have been a resident of Springfield, Illinois nearly all of my life (roughly 23 of 25 years). In those years, the [Illinois State Museum](#) has stood as a constant for me. My elementary schools and Girl Scout troops took field trips to the main museum campus when I was younger, where we visited exhibits, played and learned in the children's area, and took home souvenirs from the gift shop. As I grew older, I visited the museum with significant others on dates and wandered through on my own, taking in more of the precious history the museum provides. In my post-secondary education and professional career, I have used Illinois State Museum's facilities for conferences and the museum-maintained webpages and documentation for research. Now, Governor Rauner's administration threatens to close this precious facility, and I can't help but fear for the organization and the pieces of history it protects.

The Illinois State Museum is not a burden to the state, it is a gift to the state's citizen and a promise to keep the state's history for future generations. It pulls in revenue from visitors, of course, which is a benefit that all of us could understand. Additionally, one of the simple arguments we could make in the organization's favor is that the money "saved" by closing the facility is almost negligible in comparison to the massive debt the state currently holds.

But more importantly, the Illinois State Museum provides a historical and cultural benefit to the state that is far less easily replaced. The museum system's facilities maintain precious historical artifacts and records and act as teaching tools for the state's children. The conference centers managed by the Illinois State Museum host events attended by researchers and professionals not just from around the state, but from around the country (as a fantastic example, take a look into the annual Emiquon Science Conference which uses the Illinois State Museum's Dickson Mounds Museum as its event host). The exhibits at the Illinois State Museum and its subsidiary sites tell a story about the state and its history; while its facilities assist state government, researchers, private and public organizations as a place to host events or meetings. This facility is far from a burden to the state; rather, it provides us with numerous benefits.

Moreover, some of the sites managed by the Illinois State Museum are not just recognized within the state, but internationally. The Dickson Mounds Museum, for example, is an integral part of the Emiquon preserve, which [has been recognized as a wetland of international importance](#) by the [RAMSAR Convention](#). The Illinois State Museum, through its subsidiary of Dickson Mounds, hosts the conferences that drive research to the Emiquon preserve, pulls tourists and guests into the preserve, hosts exhibits on the history of Emiquon and the wetland restoration process, and is in general an integral part of [The Emiquon Partnership](#). Closing the Dickson Mounds Museum is likely to do damage to the preserve itself and impact its ability to function as a premier research and tourism space. This facility stands as an important example of the benefit of the Illinois State Museum to the state as a whole. Now consider the fact that the Illinois State Museum is a statewide organization with many other facilities, and Governor Rauner's push to close it seems at best, misguided, and at worst, actively negligent.

I cannot see the benefit of closing an organization that benefits the state in so many ways. Perhaps Governor Rauner hopes that not enough people will speak out on behalf of this facility or even notice that its existence is threatened. I hope my testimony, and that of others, proves this not to be true. The Illinois State Museum is a gift. We should protect it.

Caitlyn Barnes

For the past 13 years, I have donated over \$25,000 of my professional time (graphic design) and well over 700 hours of volunteer time to the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery in order to keep the doors open and free and to be of service to the public. There is not a segment of the population the museum does not reach or has tried to reach, especially minorities, the poor and people with disabilities. I remember fondly Mr. Enrico Orozco, a man who donated an entire collection of rare and heirloom dolls to be shared with the people of Illinois in loving memory of his beloved wife, Joy. This example alone, out of many, illustrates how devastating it would be to close down the museum to the public.

Gene Skala
1259 West Winnemac Avenue, 1st Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60640-2930

I strongly object to the loss of Illinois art and culture, because of a lack of agreement on the state budget.

One of the problems with the state is that taxes are not directed to expenses.

I believe the people of Illinois would support taxes to support the museum if someone would just ask.

J. Gianfrancisco MD

I am writing this to voice my displeasure at Gov. Rauner's proposed closing of any or all state museums. Our children learn from our history. If you wish our future generations to take pride in our history and remain in Illinois to support our state, it is in our best interest to keep all state museums open.

Roxy Kuhlmann
Elementary School Teacher

My name is Dana Ford and I live in Lewistown, Il. I am voicing my concern about the proposed closure of this great museum. This museum partners several other organizations and hosts many presentations that I feel no one has considered learning about. Besides those 2 things, and it is much more than just 2 things, I know Mason, Fulton and McDonough counties bring school students (from preschool to high school) on field trips to the museum. The archeological history of the area has just been tapped and there is much more to be learned. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts use the grounds for camping and badgework. There are events going on all year that no other facility hosts. Has anyone talked to the administrator of Dickson Mounds to find out what is actually planned and hosted at this facility?

My husband and I just recently stopped in and viewed the Junior Duck Stamp exhibit. No one else exhibits these entries. Later they will have the Senior Duck Stamp exhibit--which we will also stop in and view. So living locally we drop in on several of the presentations and exhibits that are given. Governor "balance the budget" should investigate the proposed museum closings and put on his thinking cap and determine the real value of budget items. I know there are items that could be cut or reduced that would not have the impact on the taxpayers as closing this facility would.

Respectfully,
Dana Ford
16293 E. Red Maple Lane
Lewistown, Il 61542

I am petitioning the state to reconsider closing the Illinois State Museum. While I freely admit that the attendance is not as high as other 'popular attractions' in Springfield, this museum offers a one-of-a-kind experience for those interested in learning more about the geologic and natural history of Illinois. The exhibits offer insight and education about native cultures and animal habitats as well as in-depth research on such topics. The research facilities are irreplaceable. The information collected within these walls is priceless to Illinoisans. History should and must be available to the public regardless of the attendance numbers for when facilities like this are closed, what is our recourse? Where can we go to learn about these peoples, places and things?? No where. A generation of children grow with no knowledge or understanding of Illinois history, other than what they may see in a local textbook. No place where they can see and experience first hand what pioneer life was like or how people persevered or how food grows or what Woolly Mammoths were like.

I encourage you to talk to the children and families who visit this institution and ask them- Should the state put a price on our heritage, our shared humanity and our future??

Tina Beaird
37 Hawthorne Drive
Oswego, IL
60543

June 25, 2015

Caesari Avent

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum

Volunteer Customer Service Representative in Children's Play Museum: Opposed to closing of Museum

I am a resident of Illinois and I am originally from Chicago, Illinois. I relocated to Springfield, Illinois to study at UIS. I have completed my BA in Liberal Studies, and I am currently working at Illinois Department of Revenue as a temporary employee. I worked at Illinois State Museum as a volunteer in September of 2014 for a Liberal Studies course assignment (LIS Serving Up Art). I am still a volunteer at Illinois State Museum in the Children's Play Museum of Art and Science.

I would like to see the capital of Illinois as a city that attracts tourist, and a city that has educational activities for children and adults. Springfield is three hours from the country's third largest city, Chicago, Illinois. We hold a significant title being the capital of Illinois, the heartland of America. We are not living in a desert; we are living in a city that should be vibrant and attractive. Please keep the doors of the Illinois State Museum open. Our children and adults need to be educated on our great state along with its history.

Sincerely

Caesari Avent

Please do not close the Illinois state museum. It is our history for Illinois. People around the world and state visit. The learning and children's programs are loved and helpful to all. It is a safe and educational location for children of divorced family's and for grandparents caring for children let alone free for underprivileged children.

Our state and community will be devastated by it's closer not to mention the tourist.

I am Cindy Warrington

Business owner and Springfield resident for 34 years.

Do not close the ISM!

Warringtons

44 Marian In

Springfield il 62704

What are you thinking?

Cindy

Please don't do this. Museums are a fine way to educate the public of all ages, of multiple issues and subjects.)

Thank you, Elizabeth Wyman

Dear Commission,

My name is Michael Crisci, and I am the Administrative Assistant at the Niles Historical & Cultural Center in Niles, IL.

I ask that you NOT close the Illinois Museum System as a cost-cutting measure by Governor Rauner. To close the System would be losing a lifeline and link to the Genealogical and Historical resources all shared by the smaller Museums of Illinois. You would "break the network" of historians in Illinois.

Illinois History is a remarkable tool and insight. It shapes our future as we learn from our past. To DENY access to the tools that the smaller Museums use as they teach upcoming generations of our unique place in history is to deny education to everyone. It is a disservice that Governor Rauner hands to every educator and student in Illinois.

I ask that you please listen to the Educators and Museums of this great State of Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, as we strongly ask you to veto his request.

Sincerely yours,

Michael A Crisci
Niles Historical & Cultural Center
Niles, IL. 60714

As an educator in Springfield School District 186, it is vital for students, educators, families, and the general public to keep the Illinois State Museum open!!!!

Mary Von Liski

To the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

I am writing to protest the impending closure of the Illinois State Museum. I am shocked that the Governor would consider closing the very organization that documents, preserves, and educates Illinois citizens about the history, culture, geography of this state. In a sense, the Museum system is our identity. To lose it, would be a huge and short-sited mistake.

I do not support this as a means to balance the budget.

Sincerely,

Barbara Cooper
4908 North Paulina
Chicago, Illinois 60640-3419

TWIMC,

Museums like the Illinois State Museum are not just pretty places to visit. Their primary, and too often unstated or misunderstood purpose, is to serve as an archive of objects relating to the history and natural history of a region. In a sense they are libraries of objects, preserving for future generations the knowledge of the past. Unlike books in libraries, however, the information in objects cannot be digitized. Once the archive is lost, it cannot be replaced. Although I understand there is a fiscal crisis in Illinois, I urge you not to take the irrevocable step of closing the museum. Once it's doors are shut, the collections will degrade, disperse, and eventually be lost forever. I've seen this happen elsewhere, even when intentions were good. The museum's budget is a drop in the bucket and a small price to pay for preserving the heritage of your great state.

Sincerely Yours,

James S. Beard PhD.
Director of Research and Collections
Virginia Museum of Natural History

I am a single mom of a 4-year-old little boy. Yesterday we stopped by the museum to see if the rumors were true. It is shocking to hear this. It makes no sense. We only had a few minutes to visit. We gave a donation at the door. Which is wonderful for everyone because it is affordable to everyone. You give what you can. That is learning a lesson all by itself. To expose my son to hands-on history is amazing. To see his eagerness when he walks in each room. His eyes were so big and bright when he saw the size of all the animals and mammals. He still has another year of preschool left. What was the most impactful experience to see how he asked questions and he learned the facts. For him to tell us the difference between a mammoth and a mastodon is incredible. All because we went there, he asked, and now he knows. I learned many new things this time there too. Take in mind I have been there many times as a child and as an adult. Each time I learn more as well. I was born in Springfield, Illinois. Grew up in Girard, Illinois. I am a granddaughter to 2 grandpas that farm this land. For generations my family has owned and farmed this land. I cherish our family history and we cherish our state history. To imagine what used to roam and used to walk where I am walking now is eye-opening. How this ground formed, plus much more. My family has found things like arrow-heads on our ground. I have not and have always wanted too. This museum is important to keep because you never know what little child can be inspired by going there and difference they can make in our world in the future. We live in a rural community with limited things to do for our children. DON'T TAKE AWAY WHAT WE DO! DON'T TAKE AWAY WHO WERE ARE! DON'T TAKE AWAY WHERE WE COME FROM! This is the foundation of our land! THE PROOF of what existed. Growing up I had problems comprehending what I was reading. I did not learn very well from reading books due to comprehension. I learned by hands on. Everyone, not just me learn more by hands-on! It is absolutely necessary; extremely important, to have these resources available to our youth and everyone else! This is not a garage we are closing up full of old junk. This is not a tourist site that is not bringing enough income in. THIS IS OUR STATE, OUR HOME! THE FOUNDATION OF WHO WE ARE! DON'T TAKE THAT AWAY! I was BORN, RAISED, AND WILL FOREVER BE HOME TO ILLINOIS! My lengthy, ramble may not make much sense to whoever reads this. It makes more sense than who ever thought it was a good idea to want to close this important place! For the love of our state, PLEASE DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND KEEP WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO US OPEN!!

Angela Mayernick

As an alumnus of Northwestern University (Class of 1978), I am appalled that a state that I have admired and care about is about to make such an ill-considered step. The ISM is a vibrant, extraordinary educational and research institution. It contributes greatly to the lives of citizens in Illinois and the rest of the nation. As a museum professional, I believe that exhibits in Springfield and at the Dickson Mounds museum are some of the best I have ever seen. The collections facility is also considered one of the best in the nation. And as an archaeologist, I know that the collections are extraordinary and deserve being preserved for the benefit of future generations. In addition, the staff at the ISM are greatly admired by the public and fellow professionals as researchers and educators.

Please reconsider this action. It will only lower the status of the state of Illinois in numerous national rankings that consider education and standard of living. It will also relegate the city of Springfield to third-class status. The local economic impact of closing the Dickson Mounds museum would also be terrific.

Dr. Claire McHale Milner
Curator and Director of Exhibits
Matson Museum of Anthropology
The Pennsylvania State Museum

Close the museum in Springfield? Are you kidding me?!!! One of our best tourist attractions, which should help bring money into the state? This is the craziness that is currently happening in our idiotic, hamstrung legislature and with our big-money idiotic governor.

You don't make cuts that cripple an entire government and state as part of a political fight (this being only one of his many crippling threats). You make cuts AND raise taxes. That is the only way an individual OR a state can reasonably dig out of a monetary hole. If I am in debt, I need to make cuts of outright luxuries, become as frugal as I can with necessities, AND do all I can to bring in more money. Where is everyone's common sense?

Commenting on other of his threatened cuts: Certain social services ARE necessities--education, the care of the helpless poor, roads and bridges etc.. Let's just cancel all the advances our forefathers made over the last 2 centuries in caring for the citizens of our country, why don't we! How dare you all? How about Gov. Rauner funds this himself out of his deep pockets instead of acting like a selfish hog? He is one of a long line of political leaders that are only interested in their own bottom line and those of their rich "friends."

Shame on the whole lot of you, legislature, governor, and, for that matter, the Supreme Court that ruled that a corporation--big money again--is the same as a person! I am heartsick and furious. If I could, I'd sweep the whole lot of you out, Democrats and Republicans. Shame, shame, shame on you all!

Faith Burdick
Galesburg, Il.

The Illinois State Museum is a valuable resource for our state. The decades of research done by scientists through the Research and Collections Center within the Illinois State Museum is invaluable and by closing this facility, we will lose the continuity of that research. The IL State Museum also provides very important learning opportunities to visitors and to young people in the form of internships. By having a meaningful learning experience and connection to Illinois through the Illinois State Museum, these people are more likely to stay and work to make Illinois a great place to live.

Please do not close the Illinois State Museum!

Sincerely,
Katie Brunk

As a non-traditional student at UIS and having just received my bachelor's degree after several years of pursuit, I implore the governor to revisit his proposal to close historical agencies/museums in order to address the state's budgetary problems. My first experience at the state museum was through my "Introduction to Archaeology" course, and we visited as part of our course requirement. I was so intrigued by the displays and hands-on opportunity to handle some precious remnants that I felt a real loss in that I had not had this exposure earlier in my life. I would have pursued such a field based on that opportunity. I have since visited other museums and always seek out these types of displays, and Illinois' ranks extraordinary.

I also feel the loss of museums such as Dixon Mounds disservices not only citizens, but in particular school children. I traveled there and to other Springfield museums with my grade school field trips in the 1960s and what a pleasant recall to revisit with my university archaeology course. Dixon Mounds and Cahokia Mounds provide such historical knowledge regarding our (particularly Illinois) ancestry, and I believe that if a person does not know their past, he/she cannot truly understand their present life. Additionally, the Illinois and Chicago Rivers hosted much of our early civilization--please don't take that history from Illinois citizens. Needless to say, I have similar sentiments for overall education. My family and I received a wonderful K-12 education in Central Illinois and through its community colleges and public universities. Please help our children to be able to say the same.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sheryl L. Murray, State University Retiree
280 West Andrews
Macon IL 62544

As a concerned citizen I would like to go on record as opposed to closing the Illinois State Museum and its branches.

I am very upset that the IL government is threatening to close our museums and State parks every time there is a budget crisis! Public parks and museums are one of the few benefits we get from paying taxes. Please find some ag or oil subsidies to cut instead! Or quit wasting money meddling around with our schools - it's not working! Our museums preserve our heritage, educate our children and provide unbiased information for countless research. We need them and we need to support them!

Thank you,

Hendrica Regez
11703 W Red Gates Rd
Galena, IL 61036

Please keep the Illinois State Museum open. My grandfather took me to the museum many times when I was a child (I am in my 80's) and it was a place of wonder for me. I often took my children when they were growing up and now take my great granddaughter often. She loves the lower level of learning with all the activities – digging for fossils, spending time in the cave with a flashlight, dressing the model, creating and changing a farm yard, one of her favorites is pretending to have a tea party. The first floor has a wondrous walk through how Illinois was over the millennia. The upstairs gives a look at Native Americans daily life so many years ago. The galleries educate also with so much of not only our past but exhibits of contemporary art. Closing the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, Illinois will be a loss for so many generations of Illinois citizens.

The cost of closing the museum is so much greater than keeping it open. The education it provides is so powerful, let alone the enjoyment it provides for Illinois citizens and the many tourists that come to visit the state capital of Illinois. Saving the few dollars that go to maintain the museum compared to the great loss of Illinois cultural history and educational opportunities does not warrant it's closing. Please keep the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, Illinois open.

Ms. Patty Stoutamyer
1506 East Stanford Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Please DO NOT close our Illinois State Museums. They are very important to our state.

Susan Frankel

I strongly urge the reconsideration of this closure. The ISM is a huge part of our history, the education of our citizens, a repository of millions of artifacts, a cultural center, and an economic boost to our economy. The closing will have far reaching effects that we cannot even imagine. Our state should be proud of our highly regarded facility instead of indiscriminately closing it. We will suffer for many, many years to come. I am sure many people have quoted the costs of this closure. The dollars saved today can only translate into dollars lost over many years to come. We never stop learning and many generations to come will never have the opportunities we enjoyed to learn about our great state. Personally, I visit the museum often and I have attended the research and collections center programs. So much has been learned and yet there is so much to learn as we explore our rich history and what we have become. There is a plethora of employees whose knowledge will be lost as they are forced to leave the ISM and gravitate to other institutions. Do we want to lose that knowledge?

To the employees of the museum past and present I send my heartfelt thanks for their hard work and their devotion to the state of Illinois to preserve our history.

Catherine M. Snopko

I just found out through friends of the sneaky closing of the Illinois State Gallery at the Thompson Center!

How despicable! This was enjoyed by so many customers, artists, visitors and now it's gone.

Sign me,
a concerned tax payer!

TigerLily Cross

Hi I'm Ria Patel.

I started volunteering at the State Museum about 3 weeks ago. I soon found out that the State Museum was likely to be closed, and I was rather shocked. Considering this is a tourist town I was surprised to hear that the museum would be closed. I volunteer in the play museum part of the museum. Within it's first 3 hours of opening the play museum gets at least 90 visitors on Saturdays. It surprises me that people want to close the museum when it helps children in Springfield and children from other places learn and have some much fun.

Ria Patel

I am writing to express my dismay at the planned closure of all Illinois State Museums sites as of July 1st. I have worked throughout many years with various State of Illinois arts programs, and am horrified at the thought that support will be pulled from programs and exhibitions that have been freely accessible to the citizens of Illinois. Many school children frequent these sites as well. The Illinois State Museum sites have made arts and culture available to a wide range of citizen since they were opened, and without them, there are Illinois citizens who will no longer have access to arts and culture in their areas, nor have the funds to attend some of the more expensive private museums and exhibitions. The State Museums house important archaeological and cultural objects that will not be accessible for viewers and researchers who have turned in the past to our State Museum sites for information, enrichment and education. Our State Museum sites are a valuable asset to the State of Illinois, and one of the things that makes living in Illinois desirable. We have a huge number of visual artists and others involved in cultural activities that have made Illinois a prime state for tourism, and the economic impact of the arts on tourism has been proven by researcher Richard Florida to be greater than that for sporting events. Closing these facilities not only presents a lack of foresight into the value of the arts in our society on education, spirituality, mental health, and other major aspects of our lives, but a lack of understanding of the economic impact of such closings. Dollars spent in the private sector are generated by the arts, and this leads to a healthy economy. The State of Illinois budget for these museums is so tiny as it is, that the savings would be negligible in the scheme of things to altering our state budget.

I have always been proud to call Illinois my home. I have lived in many states that have fewer opportunities for the arts, and have found them lacking in what they offer. I have always bragged to other artists about the Artist in Education program (that will likely see little funding by this administration) which provides important opportunities to youth through their experiences with the arts; I have also bragged about the support that our state and area provides for working artists (now I understand that individual Artists Fellowship programs will be cut at the Illinois Arts Council) and the wonderful State Museums that provide top-notch exhibitions and programs for the public. I will no longer be proud to live here once these closures take place. I have spoken extensively with other arts professionals, educators and other citizens who all say that something terribly valuable is being taken away by our new governor. This is unconscionable, and the arts community and others are appalled. Please relay my thoughts to our governor and to the committee which will consider such closures.

Sincerely,
Beth Shadur

Museums, especially state museum's are part of the public patrimony. Please consider keeping the Illinois State Museum open and its staff employed. Surely the money the closure would provide can be found from a different source.

Beth Kubly

I am an opponent of the museum closure due to the value of the collection to Illinois culture and history. How can we know who we are and can be without important touchstones of our common experiences. How can our communities grow and our children prosper if we do afford ourselves ready access to all aspects of our lives? Please do not put our future at risk by removing such core information and experience

Cynthia Nelson
575 E 12th
Lockport IL 60441

Hello,

I am writing to strongly oppose the closing of the Illinois State Museum. I am very sorry that I have to take the time to write this email, but I am doing so because it is so important to the citizens and future citizens of the State of Illinois. I (and many out of state visitors I have hosted) have visited this wonderful facility for over 50 years and think that it is a true crime that this is a possible reality of the Illinois budget situation.

Please consider this as my written statement filed.

Thank you,

Shawn C. Shures
Springfield, IL

The idea of closing the museum is impossible to consider. I served as a docent recently and was told By several visitors that day how much they enjoy the Museum and what a wonderful place to bring their Children for the learning experiences it offers. Please remove its closure from consideration.

Helen Evenson

I am a first grade teacher in the Springfield School District. This year Nina Wathall from the museum worked with Sunrise Rotary to allow my students to come to the Illinois State Museum on a Field Trip. The grant paid for 2 buses for 80 first graders. The grant also paid for a nonfiction book that went along with the trip. With money for buses being so tight this is a field trip that would not have happened. My students were able to learn about their state and animals that lived long ago.

I personally know Nina and she works tirelessly to make sure that all students get the most educationally from their trip. I have worked with her to aligned the Common Core Standards to the Play Museum.

This is a place where children can go free of cost and still learn. I know times are tough but we still are responsible to teach our students I ask you to please keep the museum open so that children can continue to learn about our great state.

Thank You,

LeAnn Divjak
First Grade Teacher
Dubois School

My name is Lou Anne Lowder and I oppose the closure of the Illinois State Museum. I am a Pre-K teacher in Springfield Public School District 186 and most importantly I am the Nana of a Pre-K boy named Ivan Journey. Closure of the museum will mean we have no place to go to see the mastodon, the shark coming through the wall, the First People, or the fossils. We won't have an exciting room like the Discovery room where we can drive the jeep to the excavation site, the exploring cave will be empty.

In an age where children are being suffocated with electronics that keep them from truly interacting with the past or feeding their imaginations about their natural world they need the museums more than ever. Please keep the museum open so that Ivan Journey and my 20 students have a place to turn the gears and smash the pennies, use the big escalator and see the beautiful art. Please reconsider this closure.

Lou Anne Lowder
330 E. Tanner St.
Waverly, Il 62692

I write to oppose the closing of the Illinois State Museum system (ISM).

The 138-year-old ISM attracts tourists to Illinois and contributes significantly to the state economy. ISM enhances the quality of life for people of all ages in Illinois. ISM hosts 40,000 school children and 2,300 teachers annually. Student field trips to an ISM museums are invaluable learning experiences and very affordable for schools on tight budgets. ISM's education staff create transformative learning experiences using the museum exhibitions and resources. All of these benefits for the citizens of Illinois are accomplished with very modest annual budgets. The \$6.29 million annual budget for operations at ISM is only 0.157% of the \$4 billion shortfall in the state's overall budget for fiscal year 2015, and only 0.0072% of the \$87.4 billion overall state budget for fiscal year 2015.

ISM also curates the artifacts from many of the state's archaeological sites. ISM curates the New Philadelphia Archaeological Project artifacts. New Philadelphia, Illinois, established by Frank McWorter in 1836, was the first town planned in advance and legally founded by an African American in the United States. The New Philadelphia town site was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2009, and is under development as a potential historical and archaeological park within the National Park Service system. ISM makes the extensive and highly valuable artifact collections from New Philadelphia and many other archaeology sites available to researchers from across the state and nation. Closing the ISM will breach the state's mission to these curation and research duties and likely threaten the accreditation of the ISM system.

Christopher C. Fennell
Editor, Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage
Assoc. Prof. of Anthropology & Law, University Scholar
Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois
Visiting Professor of Law, University of Chicago

I remember going to the Illinois State Museum as a child and being in awe of all the wonderful things to look at and do. Not only will people lose their jobs but children as well as adults will lose a landmark in Springfield.

Jera Josserand

I am opposed to the closure of the Illinois State Museum. The museum fulfills a unique role in this state in teaching the cultural and natural history of Illinois. Thanks to this museum, my daughters have had hands-on experiences with artifacts in the collections, met scientists and artists, displayed their own collections of rocks, fossils, seashells, and teddy bears at ISM, attended lectures, and learned so much more than they ever did at school about the cultural and natural history of Illinois.

This past school year, my oldest daughter Annie placed first in the regional high school Science Olympiad in two categories - Fossils and Ecology - due in part to what she learned from ISM. And one year the ISM Middle School Science Series opened my daughter's eyes to what nanotechnology is with hands-on activities and models. But I'll never forget the day that, as a 4th grader, Annie attended the annual open house at the Ash Street location and, taking a break, sat down in that facility's library browsed the scientific periodicals on display just because they were interesting.

At a time when science is so important to our country's future, the ISM is in many cases the only access children in Springfield have to experiencing what science really is.

I also believe institutions like ISM will be critical in the future as our country deals with climate change. The ability of the ISM scientists to use fossils, cores, and pollen samples stored at ISM, and to lend those artifacts to other research institutions, to piece together our country's environmental past is critical to determining the rate of climate change we are facing in the future.

ISM is research and collections, and it is making science accessible and approachable to the public. Don't mistake its historical nature for its future importance.

Pete Gegen
11 Riverwood Dr.
Rochester, IL 62563

I remember visiting the Illinois State museum on field trips as a child, and seeing the Stratton Office building. It had a definite profound effect on me. I wanted to grow up and spend my life there.

Trips to the museum are an irreplaceable part of education. Please don't close the Illinois State Museum.

Ann Wilhite

The prospect of the Illinois State Museum closing is scary. In addition to all the negative, and long term, impacts pointed out by others, many hours of volunteer time would be lost, all of which have added up to lowering the cost of operating the museum. One huge loss will be the many professional staff who leave because they cannot gamble on a reopening. The museum is what it is, in part, due to the professional staff.

And what about the cost of unemployment compensation to all those staff who would be laid off? It would seem that when all the costs, before and after closing the museum, are fully weighed, the difference would even be smaller than originally estimated.

Certainly Illinois has a fiscal crisis, and changes need to be made, but closing the museum should not be one of them. The Legislature and the Governor were remiss last year in not extending the temporary income tax increase. Perhaps the current Legislature and Governor will see the folly of last year's inaction, and rather than cutting so many programs and closing facilities such as the museum, do the right thing and restore that increase.

In any event, please let's not close this museum, one of Illinois's jewels.

Richard McLane

As an Illinoisan born, raised, and educated in our state, with lifelong involvement in public archaeology and cultural resource management here, I am astonished that closing the Illinois State Museum locations is under consideration. Thousands of Illinoisans, as well as others beyond our borders, benefit from the excellent programming, exhibits, research, and stewardship conducted by ISM staff and volunteers. The Illinois State Museum embodies our natural and cultural heritage and as the primary locale for its preservation, study and outreach to the public, it should not be closed. Illinois is in budgetary crisis, but the solution should not be at the expense of this valued institution – its benefit to the people of Illinois far exceeds its funding.

Alice Berkson

Considering the archival collections at the State Museum, the legal requirements for preservation of those collections, the economic benefit of attracting the general public to the display aspects of the museum, and the burden on contractors if the cultural resource management aspects of the Museum are no longer available, closure is a terrible idea. I have been to Springfield; there are a number of small restaurants near the museum that would likely disappear if there were no tourist traffic. There goes sales tax and income tax revenue, and likely some hotel tax as well.

The essential problem Illinois faces is one of too much expenditure and too little income. Thus, if we are to cut expenditure, we need to find operations where there are already private sector alternatives, where the cost is high and benefit low, or where the primary beneficiaries are politicians rather than the populace at large. Removing some of Blagojevich's populist legislation would be a start. Closing State Parks that are primarily for recreation as opposed to education or environmental management would be a second approach. While it wouldn't raise much money, charge an entry fee for tours of Government offices. One suspects that lowering the maximum amount a family can make while still receiving Medicaid by \$1,000/year would save the State far more than the nickel and dime proposed closures such as closing the State Museum.

Of course, making Illinois more business-friendly would also help by increasing government income. That requires investment in infrastructure, reduction in Worker's Compensation costs, reducing corporate taxation, and raising income taxes. Longer range, reducing the total number of governmental units (and thus reducing the number of salaried people paid with tax funds) would help. The CGFA should look into whether gambling is a net cost reducer or increaser (i.e. do the costs of policing, gambling addiction, and infrastructure to support the casinos exceed the tax take from the operations?). But the biggest problem is beyond any of us -- to get politicians to vote for policies that support the public welfare rather than their reelection. This would include a graduated income tax, subsidies for job creation, and consolidation of regulation so that one can easily determine what regulations must be met and get sign-off cheaply and rapidly if one is compliant.

Alexander Scheeline
904 Mayfair Rd.
Champaign, IL 61821

Please reconsider closing the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. This facility has served the people of Illinois for decades providing unique educational exhibits.

As an alternative to closing you may consider raising the admission fee.

Karl Kohlrus

I am so saddened by the loss of the only access to our museums, the programs are vital to us in rural Southern Illinois especially here where the Artisan Center was our cultural hub.

Speaking as an Artisan and teacher, I am lost and sadly we all lose. Art is a beautiful expression of emotion a way to express feelings in a non violent way. Our younger generation needs an outlet for their emotion.

Art helps everyone it lifts spirits- it inspires us to reach higher- be more, but with no facility to come together I fear that will all be lost.

I pray we can find a solution, a way to fund the programs and facilities for all of our benefit. Our state has been shamefully wasteful in the past, please do not add insult to injury, cut the junk but keep the museums. A world without art and culture is a dull dead place.

Thank you for your time,

Nancy L. Pace
Southern Illinois
Benton, Illinois
Artist/ teacher

I am writing to urge reconsideration of the proposal to close the Illinois State Museum. I hold an adjunct volunteer research position in Botany there, and I have worked with many of the brilliant people who have made this institution one of the most respected on the planet.

Compared with the revenue it generates for Illinois, and the scientific value of what it does (much through external grants that don't take dollars from the State), and the percentage of our taxes directed toward keeping it going, funding its operation requires chump change. I appreciate the Governor's necessary initiative to try to bring our budget back into balance, but this is not an effective way to accomplish that.

Please enter this comment into your record if you hold a public hearing regarding the proposed closing in case I am unable to attend in person.

Guy Sternberg
Starhill Forest Arboretum
12000 Boy Scout Trail, Petersburg, Illinois 62675

The family of Morton D. Barker, Jr., whose Russian Grand Father was naturalized in 1868, moved to Springfield in 1896, from the City of Chicago.

5 generations have enjoyed and learned from the Illinois State Museums programs and historical objects. Artifacts now numbering over 12.5 million in number.

To lose access to these treasure is irresponsible.

I personally have been on either the Illinois State Museum Society Board or the Governor's Board since 1976.

Historic preservation is my life long work. I was on the Mayor's Historic Site Commission for 10 years, Chr. 2 years. Have been involved with historic homes. One of the Incorporates, Dana-Thomas House Foundation, 30 years ago. Board member and President. Vachel Lindsay home....Board Member and President...we worked very hard to demonstrate to Governor Thompson how deeply that house connects to Lincoln and Vachel Lindsay, the first U. S. poet asked to recite at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

LAST....the Strawbridge -Shepherd House on the grounds of U of I, Springfield. It now houses the State Historical Society's office. Importantly, recently it has been accepted on the National Register.

I ask CGFA ----- Keep the Illinois State Museum sites intact. Culturally and financially, a great boon to our economy. Visitors spent an estimated \$33 million visiting our Museums through out our State last year.

As a citizen who has lived in the Springfield area since 1942, wife for 53 years and Mother of 5 sons, grandchildren numbers growing.

I ask you, keep the Illinois State Museum open.

R-Lou Porter Barker

Mrs. Morton D Barker, Jr.

The museum, an integral part of the state government, is key in protecting the record and dissemination of, and research into, the natural and cultural heritage of Illinois. Keeping the museum open and functioning is part of the government's sacred trust.

Jerome Jacobson

June 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum and its satellite facilities.

To close a well-respected, accredited cultural museum that has been serving the people of Illinois, and anyone else who cares to come, for 135 years, is wrong on many counts.

--It does irreparable damage to the cultural, natural, and historical heritage of the state.

--It denies the people, particularly the taxpayers, the right to see and learn from material that they have saved and preserved with their tax money.

--It damages, and ultimately probably destroys, the excellent reputation of the State Museum.

--It further damages the shaky reputation of the State of Illinois.

--It damages the economy by laying off 55-60 people and reduces tourism income, with resulting declines in sales taxes that would have benefited the state.

--It causes financial and emotional hardship to the staff who are well-qualified people and being poorly treated in return for their dedication to the Museum.

--It removes an active educational resource freely available to the people of Illinois outside Chicago.

--The money "saved" by closing the Museum is a mere drop in the budget bucket and the damage done as a result far exceeds any supposed benefit.

The cultural and educational resources we have should be nurtured to help develop facets of the economy. The destruction of such resources further damages the economy rather than helping to improve it.

Sincerely,

Glenna R. Schroeder-Lein
579 Mountcastle Rd.
Springfield, IL 62704

My name is Patricia Everett and I am opposed to the closing of The Illinois State Museum.

I have taken students and family members to the museum many times. It has had wonderful exhibits from history and science that have been valuable and many valuable programs.

Many volunteers have contributed to help make it available.

It would be a travesty for it to close.

Patricia Everett

Attn: CGFA Commission

The effects of closing the Illinois State Museum reach beyond the State of Illinois. Many of the museum's employees are experts in their respective fields and their works and observations are noted and respected throughout the United States as well as abroad.

As a professional writer, I have used the resources of the Illinois State Museum since the early 1970s. Curators, such as John Paul and Tim Cashatt, have proved invaluable in their knowledge and expertise as has Dave Bohlen, noted author and ornithologist. I am indebted to these people as well as the museum library staff for help during the writing of my books which are distributed throughout this country. Without the museum and its resources, the National Science Teachers Association and Children's Book Council would not cite three of my books as "Outstanding Science Trade Books."

Kay Cooper Watt
222 East Hazel Dell Lane
Springfield, IL 62712

Opposed to closing any part of the Illinois Museum. Unique to Illinois are several historical sites. The staff is world acclaimed. These are positives within the state. Closing would cause loss not replaceable.

It is important to feed the mind and learn from history. Educational opportunities for school children and the citizens are well served by the museum system.

Most visitors travel to visit. This generates 1) gasoline or travel expense, food consumed, and perhaps motel stays. That is three jobs lost. Not positive for the state.

With a world famous museum system the logic to shut down is illogical. Physical expenses still exist without revenue generation.

I am a member of the Illinois State Museum Society and am doing my part to support the museums. The state needs to fund these great resources

Doris Adami
5323 Burns
Bartonville, IL 61607

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission members

I would like here to provide written testimony on the proposed closure of Illinois State Museum. I wish to register my strong opposition to the plan. Many museums worldwide have suffered a reduction in their resource base I recent years, but they have managed to maintain their core activities. Few have faced deliberate total closure – and those that have are mostly in poor countries. The idea of a US State sanctioning the closure of its own flagship State Museum is unique in my experience and indeed, incomprehensible from this distance. Quite apart from the unique educational opportunities that the Museum offers to State residents of all ages, I would like to focus on the collections aspect, as that is my personal experience of Illinois State Museum.

As a palaeontologist I have visited ISM from the UK because of their unique and important collection of fossils from Illinois, Missouri, and other areas. I was hosted as a research visitor and found the collection well curated and of great scientific significance. As a senior museum professional myself, I know the risks that are entered into when collections facilities are closed, even temporarily. Major museums are much more than their public face (important though that is). They are repositories of the State's heritage, and speaking specifically of the natural history collections with which I am familiar, these deteriorate without dedicated curatorial staff to look after them, together with the technical facilities and specialist staffing that modern museum curation requires. It also means that the collection is mothballed for research purposes.

As a non-resident of Illinois I am ignorant of what pressures or policies have led to the suggestion of closing your State Museum. But I hope you will consider very carefully how much you are losing if you take that lamentable step.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Lister

Professor Adrian M Lister
Research Leader
The Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD, UK

It's so sad and shocking that he would close Illinois Museums. When he's gone it will be nearly impossible to recreate the museums again. If it were to close no one would forget the legacy of the man who closed the Illinois State Museum in our capital city of Springfield that has been around for 135 years. Many generations have enjoyed the family activity and the educational experience. There we learn about the life on this planet in the early days. Why would a leader want to destroy our historical sites! This museums fosters education and allows families to spend quality time together which may decrease money spent in the future on trying to solve social problems. I have taken my children and now grandchildren there and it breaks my heart to know that it may not be there for future generations. There are people of all ages who would like to continue to volunteer at the museum which could assist in reducing the financial burden to Illinois. The storage building contents could be reduced and taken to the current museum site. Effective leadership can alleviate the budget problems without closing a wonderful part of the Springfield community.

This is a community historic site that encourages the family experience and educates future generations. Some people may love to go to sporting events such as Blackhawk games and some would rather go to the Illinois State Museum. This museum is a wonderful experience for families and has been for decades. Many constituents would rather go on a fun family activity and be engaged in the community and it's history. This interest is sparked, fostered and nurtured throughout several generations! There should be respect and consideration of communities and of family activities that foster family values, a sense of belonging and an understanding of the people who lived in Illinois many years ago. It's not just about getting rid of a building or saving some dollars. There is much that will be lost; the family experience, education, history, and the importance of engagement in community service that has been instilled in young adults who routinely volunteer at the museum. The people of Illinois will never forget the man who left a legacy of betrayal by portraying a sense of caring by attending local sporting events and yet showing his lack of support in truly meaningful venues such as our Illinois State Museum that encourages family and community bonds that are interconnected with our past, present, and future!

Thanks,

Debra Veach

I am a life-long citizen of Illinois and long-time member of the Illinois State Museum Society. I am appalled at the prospect of having the Museum's facilities closed. I have worked as a volunteer on several Museum projects including the oral agriculture history project and cataloging the Museum's library resources related to early historical accounts of the Illinois Indians. I have participated in several archaeology field trips sponsored by the Museum and regularly attend the Paul Mickey lectures that discuss Illinois' rich history as seen through archaeological site investigations throughout the State. Just last June 17th, I brought my 4-year old granddaughter to "Art and Science Camp" at the Museum in Springfield, a unique pre-school program. I have also attended several public events at Dixon Mounds Museum, including a tour of the ancient Indian mounds in the Havana area. I have often used the Museum's resources for my own Illinois Indian history-related research and publishing.

Closure of the Illinois State Museum would deprive me and thousands of other Illinois citizens, including school age children, of significant educational opportunities that can not be obtained elsewhere. Where else can school children learn of Illinois' natural resources and the results of archaeological research in such a comprehensive way? Elementary school curricula do not delve into these aspects of our State's history. Only the Museum, nationally accredited and a leader in research, can provide that kind of learning experience.

On an equally sobering note, what happens to the Museum's substantial holdings of artifacts and exhibition materials if the facilities are closed? Also, the Museum should be recognized for the number of visitors it draws to Illinois. It is one of the few government-related agencies/programs that actually bring dollars into the State. Why eliminate that revenue raising ability?

I am a firm OPPONENT of any proposal to close the Illinois State Museum System. Any such proposal is short-sighted and harmful to the citizens of Illinois. I thank the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability for the opportunity to submit comments on this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Dennis L. Sweatman

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Re: Don't close the Illinois State Museum

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). For over 138 years, the ISM has preserved the natural and cultural history of our state, while providing research and educational services to the community. The Springfield facility alone is estimated to bring in \$33 million in tourism spending. And the Dickson Mounds facility is an important resource to the local region, partnering with schools and private institutions, such as The Nature Conservancy, to educate children and citizen scientists, to support ongoing archaeological excavations, and to serve as a site for community meetings and educational events, like the annual Eagle Day.

My own work in research, education, and outreach at the Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon has benefited greatly from the collaboration of the staff and facilities at Dickson Mounds State Museum. For example, the annual Emiquon Science Symposium is sponsored by UIS' Field Station and hosted by the Museum. And our science workshops for high school teachers and students usually include a tour of the Museum.

Besides losing the benefits described above, closing the ISM would put over 12.5 million artifacts at risk, and would violate the contracts from federal and private grants.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Keenan E. Dungey, PhD
208 Cartwright Dr.
Springfield, IL 62704
217-547-1206
keenan.dungey@sbcglobal.net

I am a retired professor of English from MacMurray College in Jacksonville. Since my retirement in 2000, I have become a frequent visitor and volunteer at the museum. I have worked with Irene Boyer and Angela Goebel-Bain on quilt restoration in decorative arts and have become acquainted with the many donations families have entrusted to the museum for preservation of the past in Illinois. While volunteering I have had many opportunities to see the inside of the Collections Building on 10th Street and hope that the treasures there will be seen in many future exhibitions.

I have also had time to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by monthly lecturers on archaeology. My favorite presenters have been Michael Wiant and Jonathon Reyman, who have mentored many young professionals in the field by giving them a forum and audience to present new

research. I have also joined several bus trips as far as the serpent mound in Ohio and the Black Hawk battlegrounds in southern Wisconsin with them as tour guides. Many preservation sites in Illinois, such as Philadelphia, Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher, Apple River were unknown to me before I was introduced to them through museum trips.

Now that my travel is limited, I can enjoy bringing my grandchildren to the museum on Sunday afternoons. They ask to see the animal and rural life exhibits, and enjoy the Play space downstairs.

Please do not close this treasure or let it deteriorate from disuse.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Crowley

To whom it may concern,

The Illinois State Museum is a venerable institution in our capitol city which houses fantastic archeological, geological, historical and anthropological exhibits and collections showcasing our Illinois heritage. In short, it is culturally significant and holds the potential to fill brains, of both children and adults, with knowledge. As Illinoisans, this is our heritage. It belongs to all of us. The fact that governor wants to close it to "save money" is ridiculous and disgusting.

Thank you.
Ben Bedford

The Illinois Museum is a treasury of human heritage. It's closure would be a travesty. why not charge higher entrance fee?

James Bischoff, U.S. Geological Survey

Dear Sir,
As a researcher I support State of Illinois by this email.
Best regards
Tayeb Akbari

The Illinois State Museum is a critical resource to the State of Illinois and the global Quaternary community. It is an internationally recognized site of excellence. This shutdown is of direct concern to our community because the Illinois State Museum at Springfield has a distinguished tradition of excellence in Quaternary Sciences and employs a number of research curators in the areas of Quaternary vertebrate paleontology, paleoecology, and anthropology. These include Eric Grimm, Bonnie Styles, Chris Widja, Jeffrey Saunders, Jonathan Reyman, and Robert Warren. Several past presidents of the American Quaternary Association have come from the Illinois State Museum. The Museum has important physical collections with particular strengths in Mississippian archaeology and Quaternary specimens. It has been a leader in paleoecoinformatics and helped found keystone resources such as FAUNMAP, Tilia, and Neotoma. The Museum is also, of course, a gateway for students to discover the wonder and beauty of science.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Caroline Davies

My name is Cathy Bredlau and I am opposed to the facility closure of the Illinois State Museum's Lockport Gallery.

For the past ten years, I have served as a volunteer at the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery. In that time, I have personally witnessed regularly occurring school field trips at his facility. With every school group, the staff always provided high quality educational presentations, programs, and guided exhibit tours. If the Lockport Gallery is closed, our regional school systems will be denied an opportunity to learn about the art and artists of Illinois and experience the enriching importance of attending historically and culturally significant museums.

The Lockport Gallery and its staff are an intrinsic asset to the community of Lockport and the southwest Chicagoland area. People from all around the world visit the facility and are genuinely delighted and impressed by their experience. ISMLG serves as an ambassador for Illinois and the Illinois State Museum. Illinois artists need representation and recognition, and the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery is an excellent site for showcasing the breadth and depth of Illinois art.

Please don't close the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery! Countless thousands of schoolchildren, area citizens, visitors and tourists, as well as artists living and working in Illinois will be detrimentally impacted by this facility closure.

Please file my written statement and testimony and use it at the hearing to plead the cause for keeping the Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery open to the public now, and in the future.

Sincerely,
Cathy Bredlau
Museum Gallery volunteer

We both strongly support keeping the Museum open. It generates more revenue than its closure saves. Closing it seems like political retribution. The main people it harms are children. Please do not let this cultural travesty occur. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to comment.

Cathy Hobart and Doug Nicodemus
948 E. Adams
Riverton IL, 62561

As a long time supporter of the Illinois State Museum, my family has visited the museum regularly over the 20 plus years we have lived in Springfield. I have taken classes at the Research and Collections building over the years and my children have participated in the events hosted by the museum. This museum is a treasure for the state of Illinois, as an accessible institution and as a research facility. The artifacts it preserves tell the natural history of Illinois - it's a vital repository of our history and considering closing the museum and its associated sites is shortsighted.

Thank you,

Lisa Weitzel

Please do not close the Illinois State Museum. It serves as a vital educational resource for children and adults from Illinois, as well as those across the nation. The lack of scientific literacy among the public will only be exacerbated by the closure of this institution.

E. S. Chapman

Governor Rauner has begun the process to close the Illinois State Museum. This is a disturbing precedent for states dealing with budgetary problems – closing educational/scientific/cultural institutions. Since 1877 the ISM has been the repository for the natural, social, and artistic history of the state (and beyond). Many University of Illinois at Springfield students, staff, and faculty collaborate with colleagues at the ISM to create research and educational opportunities not otherwise possible here in Springfield.

As is the case for most major museum collections, items are held in trust for various other groups. The ISM curates archaeological and paleontological materials for several states, a dozen+ Indian tribes, the National Park Service, and other government and private groups. Curation is more than just keeping something in a box, but maintaining it for scientific and educational uses.

There is a particular problem with the millions of artifacts covered by the Native American Graves Protection Act, which requires museums to curate and provide access to members of the Indian tribe represented by the artifacts. The state would be immediately subject to civil penalties (\$100,000 each) from the US Secretary of the Interior for not allowing access or repatriating. Even if the Indian tribes had a place for the artifacts to be repatriated (which they don't), it would be impossible to meet the federal requirements. Repatriation must take place within 90 days of a request. The Research and Collections Center in Springfield is more than 100,000 square feet and contains 7.5 million artifacts that would have to be repatriated. I can't even guess how long that inventorying, packing, and moving would take, even fully staffed. The Smithsonian took 5 years and 177 people to move 800,000 artifacts to a single new building (<http://nmai.si.edu/explore/collections/moving/>). Do the math for the cost to repatriate the ISM artifacts. And that still leaves the millions of fossils, historical items, zoological, botanical, and art collections that would not need to be repatriated. Oh, and the cost of closing would also include the lawsuits from Indian tribes, the federal government, individuals...

The museum brings in millions in federal grants, and tourists to the ISM spend more than \$30 million dollars. Even apart from the lost educational and cultural opportunities, this would be a disaster from an economic perspective.

The cost of closing the Illinois State Museum greatly exceed keeping the facilities open. Everyone knows the state budget is a mess, and cuts will have to happen. I just hope the state doesn't make fiscally irresponsible choices, like closing the ISM.

Dennis

Dennis R. Ruez, Jr.
Associate Professor and Chair

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Bldg Springfield IL 62706

I am filing this written statement to oppose the closing of the Illinois State Museum 502 S Spring St Springfield IL 62706.

I visited the ISM for the first time when I was five years old with my father and mother. They wanted me to begin to better understand the rich cultural and historical heritage of our state. From mineral, insect, art collections to the small historical dioramas; I was fascinated to know these were all a part of the state where I was born and raised. We continued to visit through the years with my younger siblings. At about 12 years of age, I was proud to help take in a small albino hoary bat that my father helped "capture" after it's broken wing kept it on the ground in our backyard. We were presented with a certificate of our donation which I still have today.

Later in my life I became an employee of the ISM and saw first hand the extensive programming and multitude of collections being maintained to record and save the natural, cultural and historical resources of Illinois. I met teachers who could teach their classes much more effectively using the resources that the ISM provides. I met visitors who came back to visit time and again to learn more about the history of Illinois.

I am still an Illinois citizen, voter, and tax payer. I understand the budget crisis Illinois faces. I do not want to see my tax dollars wasted. But I have seen them wasted for years on administrative greed and lack of financial accountability on the part of Illinois legislative leaders. I believe all this must stop in order for Illinois to become a productive state benefiting all of its citizens.

I do not believe closing the Illinois State Museum is going to help solve the budget crisis. It will most likely make it worse due to the loss in resources to schools around the state, loss of tourism to communities around the state, and possibly lawsuits arising from collections of all kinds not being cared for as promised.

The Illinois State Museum should remain open and continue to be maintained as a priceless treasure of this state.

Karen Fyfe
16592 Johnson Ave
Athens IL 62613

I strongly oppose the closure of the Illinois State Museum System. It would deprive hundreds of thousands of people a free educational opportunity open to all walks of life, a source of inspiration and guidance each and every year. Closing it would be the equivalent of closing an entire county's school districts and a State University. The Illinois State Museum has some of the most knowledgeable, insightful and passionate professionals in their respective fields of expertise that anyone could ever ask for, and all gathered in one entity. Closing the facilities would not only preclude Illinoisans access to information about the cultural and natural history of this state, but it would also disallow them access to the wealth of information that the employees of the Illinois State Museum possess. And that denial will have long term adverse impacts on the financial and environmental health of this state.

The Illinois State Museum has been a part of my life almost as far back as I have memories. We used to go to the State Museum for movies in the winter, we watched films about Illinois history, both natural and human, and the world. After the films we would wonder the Museum and from the exhibits on the ground floor we learned about Illinois' plants and animals both past and present, our state's geology the minerals and natural resources that made our land important nationally. Upstairs we discovered the people of its past, those it was named for and about its long history of agriculture, as well as visiting exhibits from all over. All that just at the Springfield Illinois State Museum.

Dickson Mounds was also introduced into my world while in grade school. My first visits all included viewing the burial chamber, where my class mates and I learned to respect the dead, and any visitors who did not were shown out. The room inspired awe, respect, and curiosity not only of the people of the past but in archaeology, for myself and for others. I was privileged to attend a public school who understood the importance of our States past to our futures, and we took many trips to Dickson Mounds over the years. We saw the Museum grow, adapt and change to meet the changing views of our legislators. From having seen the remains, my classmates and I gained a more tangible connection to the artifacts on display upstairs. We could then view those items and ask ourselves did this object belong to one of those people buried here, was it something they made themselves, or was it given to them by someone they viewed as important. What did it mean to them and how did they use it. Through that connection we were able to bring the past alive in our own imaginations.

Dickson Mounds and other divisions of the Illinois State Museum system employs a talented, passionate, and knowledgeable staff, these individuals convey those qualities through the exhibits they design, care for and present to the public. It is through their efforts that children and adults feel immersed in the exhibits, as though one has managed to travel through time and caught a single moment frozen for ever in time for them to study plants, animals or people, living as they once did in this amazing state.

The Illinois State Museum's Research and Collections facility and its annual open house furthers those connections between the curators to the public. Showcasing the vast collections within the Museum System and the wealth of knowledge the Illinois State Museum staff possess as well as their passion to share that knowledge with anyone interested in learning it.

It is because of the Illinois State Museum that I have become the professional I am today, a Biologist, Anthropologist, a Registered Professional Archaeologist, and a Geographic Information Scientist. Without the Illinois State Museum I would have had neither the inspiration, nor the moral and educational support to have accomplished my current professional state. The Illinois State Museum was part of my research, and mentoring base for my undergraduate thesis, and for my Masters Practicum.

Without the aid of several individuals at both Dickson Mounds and at the Illinois State Museum's Research and Collection Facility I would not be who I am today. Please do not close the Illinois State Museum System and deprive the youth of this State their futures and their ability to make our State and the world a better place.

Thank you for your time,

Virginia Walgren
MS
GIS
RPA Historic Archaeologist

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a citizen of Illinois, a long time volunteer at the Illinois State Museum and currently serve on the Board of Trustees.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.
- ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors

Dickson Mounds in Lewistown: 50,000 visitors

Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors

Southern Illinois Art Gallery near Sesser: 18,000 visitors

Springfield: 200,000 visitors

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike Perino

**Catherine Goebel
Opponent
Facility Closure of
Illinois State Museum System**

The closure of the Illinois State Museum System would be a vital lose to the State of Illinois; the current generation and future generation of Illinoisans and the hundreds of thousand tourists annually that visit the Museum system. The Museum has been the guardian of Illinois history both natural and cultural for the past 138 years. The Museum System is one of the few Museums in Illinois with national accreditation and closure would force the Museum to loss that national recognition. Many of the Museum staff holds positions in national museum associations, which increases Illinois' recognition as a national leader. The staff is highly educated and internationally respected and many have been quoted in international articles and books. If the Museum closes, these highly respected individuals potentially could leave Illinois for other states and museums, which would be a great lose to the citizens of Illinois.

The closure of this great facility would leave a tremendous hole in the educational benefits of both younger and older citizens of Illinois. The 13.5 million cultural and natural artifacts being held in trust by the Museum would be at jeopardy. Lectures, gallery talks and children's programing would be lost. Many artifacts from the Museum have been on loan to other institutions across America; these items all would be brought back to Illinois and thus other Americans would not be able to learn more about us, who we are and where we have come from.

The closure of the Illinois Museum System would have an economic impact on many regions of Illinois, thus reducing the number of tourist dollars in our communities. The Museum system has been able to introduce visitors to our land, people, life and art for 138 years. Many visitors leave with those special pieces of art produced by Illinois's own talented artists and craftsmen bringing revenue to our state.

Please consider the impact such action would have on all of us if such a great institution would be closed. We would lose our history, have an economical gap and educational opportunities would be lost. The children of Illinois deserve to learn who we are, where we have come from so they will have knowledge to know where we are headed!

KEEP THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM SYSTEM OPEN!

Raiba Hodds

June 24, 2015

Fun

Don't close the Museum

Don't close the Museum Chloe



Elsa Plans Don't close the museum please save my mom's Art 100

Science

Dear Governor Rauner,
Thank you for visiting us at the
Illinois State Museum Summer Camp!

We hope to see you next year!

Katie ☺

don't close the museum because it is the only museum that has movies and a place to play

Avery ☺

Keep the museum open
Henry

Amanda Wescher

Michel

Amrout

↓ Ash Street ↓

Olivia

Kim Seji

Don't close the state museum! @Not a Question

Don't close the Museum! Please! love, Josie Antkowiak



ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM

EXPLORE. LEARN. DISCOVER.

I am a quaternary scientist specializing in use of dendrochronology for dating and paleoclimatic reconstruction, with interests in paleoecology. I can hardly believe that the state is considering closing this wonderful museum. I can only conclude that this is another aspect of a certain political party's war against rationality and science. This museum has an active outreach program to disseminate its world class research and curation. I urge you to reconsider this ill-advised idea.

Malcolm K. Cleaveland, Ph.D. U. of Arkansas
Professor Emeritus of Geosciences
Dept. of Geosciences, 216 Ozark Hall
Fayetteville, AR 72701

I wish to express my great concern that there are plans to close the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. This is a world-class institution with a long and distinguished tradition of excellence, both in research and public education. It would be extremely short-sighted to close such a facility. It would be impossible to recreate the remarkable collections, and the outstanding personnel who work in the Museum, once it is closed.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this plan, and to maintain the Museum for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Raymond S. Bradley
Zuckerberg Leadership Chair

Distinguished Professor
Director, Climate System Research Center*
Department of Geosciences, University of Massachusetts
Morrill Science Center, 611 North Pleasant Street
AMHERST, MA 01003-9297

I am very opposed to the state museum closing. This is one of the gems of Springfield. It's closing will increase the unemployment rates in Springfield. This is NOT the direction the state should be going in. Please keep the state museum open.

Maria Ferraro

June 25, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the possible closing of the Illinois State Museum. As Chief of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, a federally-recognized Indian tribe, I cannot emphasize the utmost importance of preserving what little heritage and culture our Tribe has left. Forced from our ancestral lands in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Missouri, the Peoria's were relocated first in Missouri, then in Kansas and, finally, here in northeastern Oklahoma. We are descendants of those who created the great mound civilizations in the central United States two thousand to three thousand years ago.

Due to the impact of relocation, boarding schools, fear of more broken agreements between the government and Native Americans, most of our language and much of our culture has been lost. The artifacts housed at the Illinois State Museum holds over 50,000 of our Tribal artifacts, of which approximately 2400 objects are currently on exhibit. This exhibit is the largest representation of our Tribe, ancestors, and our past.

The Illinois State Museum, artifacts and sacred objects on display, play a crucial role in preserving the history of our Tribe. The Cooperative Agreement between the Peoria Tribe and the Illinois State Museum for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections, has been in place since 1999, and renewed for another 10 year term in January 2012.

It is my personal hope that the Illinois State Museum, a nationally accredited museum in business for over 135 years, will not be forced to terminate this agreement due to state budget cuts. This act would represent yet another broken agreement made with not only the Peoria Tribe, but all of the Native American tribes represented at the Illinois State Museum.

We trust you and the great state of Illinois, will consider the ramifications and seriousness of closing this facility rich in Native American history. .

We appreciate your careful consideration in this matter.

John P. Froman
Chief

I disagree with the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum. The site provides educational material to people in the local area and all over the state who travel to Springfield in order to visit the Museum. If the site is closed Springfield would be exposed to a loss of culture and another site for tourists to visit. The Museum is one of the best sites in Springfield and should not be closed! This is an outrage!

Clarissa Casper

While I acknowledge that the state has many financial problems that require difficult solutions I see little to no value in closing the Illinois State Museum. The savings would be meager and would in no way balance out the loss. Over the past several decades the belief that providing tax cuts to wealthy individuals is the panacea for economic problems has become quite common. Despite enacting these sorts of cuts (which the governor is proposing) the economy has only gotten worse. Many years ago when the United States experienced its greatest period of prosperity wealthy individuals paid taxes at a much higher rate than they do today. This money was used to invest in (among other things) education which time and again has proven to be the best way to stimulate the economy because it provides the citizens of the state with the tools they need to obtain better jobs and produce innovations that benefit society as a whole. It is particularly telling that on election day the vast majority of voters indicated that they wanted an increase in the minimum wage and a tax on individuals with incomes in excess of 1 million dollars, yet Governor Rauner, a candidate who was opposed to these measures was elected. The fact that many of my fellow citizens voted for a candidate who was diametrically opposed to their views is evidence of the damage that a lack of education causes. Closing the museum will not solve our problems and by denying our children and fellow citizens an opportunity to expand their understanding of Illinois and the wider world beyond our state will only serve to exacerbate our problems. It will make for good political theater though. It is a sad day when the leadership of our state is less interested in the public good than they are in orchestrating political stunts like this.

Jim Bonacum Ph.D
Associate Professor of Genetics
Biology Department
University of Illinois Springfield
One University Plaza, MS HSB 223

To close the Illinois State Museum is to waste the millions of dollars spent and donated to the building, collecting and study of Illinois cultural and natural resources and our heritage.

It is a showplace to introduce Illinois to our citizens and outsiders. To close it diminishes our status as a state with intelligence.

Thousands of visitors tour the museum on daily visits or on school trips.

It has nearly 4,000 likes on Facebook.

It helps promote Illinois artists and craftsmen.

It employs Illinois citizens and promotes scientific research.

Jacqueline A. Carey

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please don't close the Illinois State Museum. As a concerned citizen and a teacher, I know how many children and adults, and homeschoolers are educated by the exhibits at the Illinois State Museum. It has existed since 1877 and has excellent collections. Moreover, it is in the top 5% of museums by its level of accreditation. As a society, we have an obligation to maintain our history and culture and pass it on to the next generation.

Moreover while closing the museum may save a small amount of money, it will take funding to keep the collections climate and light controlled and to maintain the building. Even if you were re-open it in the future, families will be hesitant to donate historic materials for fear they will never be exhibited. Please, please consider the implications of this major step. It is a small price for taxpayers to pay to preserve our knowledge and culture.

Sincerely,
Hazel J. Rozema
Springfield, IL



June 30, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Written Statement Filed by: Barbara A. Farley, President, Illinois College, 1101 West College Avenue, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, barbara.farley@mail.ic.edu

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am the President of Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois. Illinois College, established in 1829, was the first College in the State of Illinois to offer courses and graduate students. Like the Illinois State Museum, which was established in 1877, Illinois College honors and works to preserve our state's valuable history while engaging and educating new generations of students. Therefore, Illinois College stands firmly in opposition to the plan to shutter the Illinois State Museum.

Illinois College has important connections with the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Over the past 13 years, the Museum has hosted internships for 60 Illinois College students. These students have worked both at the Museum's Research and Collections Center, as well as at the downtown Museum. Through these internships, our students help to staff the Museum during the busy summer months while also continuing their education.

Students who have conducted Internships at the Museum had widely varying academic majors, including Biology, Environmental Biology, Education, History, English, Sociology, Computer Science, Art, Psychology, Management and Organizational

Leadership, International Studies, Chemistry, Spanish, Communication and Rhetorical Studies, Political Science, French, Philosophy, and Japanese Studies.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Cooperative Work Study works in concert with our College to fund these Illinois State Museum internships as part of Illinois College's "IC Explorers" program. The IBHE requires that recipient institutions of higher education track and report outcomes for participating students. Of the Illinois College students who participated in the IC Explorers program and graduated in 2011-2013, 91.3 percent were enrolled in graduate or professional schools, or were employed in Illinois following graduation.¹ Internships at the Illinois State Museum are crucial to help Illinois College students achieve their post-graduate educational and career goals.

Taking a broader view, the Illinois State Museum educates students of all ages about Illinois' important historical, geographic and cultural role in the history of our nation, our continent and our world. There are priceless collections on display at the Museum and housed within the Research and Collections Center that should continue to play a vital role in educating the people of Illinois as well as local, regional, national and international tourists. Once divested, these collections could never be fully reclaimed and reassembled.

I implore you to reverse this closure plan. Please do not sacrifice the Museum's facilities and priceless collections in order to achieve short-term monetary savings. The decisions you make and the action you take regarding the Illinois State Museum will have life-altering consequences for Illinois College students and generations of students to come. Please seize this opportunity to do the right thing for our State and for our students.

I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara A. Farley, Ph.D.

¹ Data taken from reports on the 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14 Cooperative Work Study Grants, as submitted by Illinois College to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Good afternoon,

My name is Todd DeDecker, administrator for the Bishop Hill Heritage Association. I would like to submit a few written comments concerning the closure of the Illinois State Museum. On behalf of the BHHA, we are against the closure of this institution. The Illinois State Museum in Springfield is one of the flagship museums in Illinois. The State Museum system overall serves tens of thousands people per year, which brings tourism dollars to the state of Illinois. It is our hope that some compromise can be reached that will prevent full scale closure of the Illinois State Museum system.

Sincerely,

Todd DeDecker
BHHA Administrator

To: the assorted elected officials who would shutter the cultural heritage for which they have fiscal and trustee responsibility:

The Illinois State Museum is an important resource to the people of Illinois and the world. The museum complex serves life-long learners, schoolchildren, as well as universities and researchers. It contributes via tourism and regular admission to the Illinois economy. It preserves and interprets many tens of thousands of years in human and natural history. Teachers benefit from professional development at the museum and students from the experiential, object-centered learning that only museums provide to them.

The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in the state and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. Consequently, closing the museum will trigger an economic harm through unemployment and by the loss of revenue to regional economies.

State government will only demonstrate cultural narrow-mindedness by shuttering this American Alliance of Museums-accredited institution. I strongly urge state government to keep the Illinois State Museum open.

sincerely,

Kevin Coffee
Chicago, Illinois 60626

I am writing to express my deep concern over the closing of an 138 year old institution that my family uses on a regular basis. We visit the museum with our young child and find it to be an important safe space for us to go interact with others, engage in dialogue and discover about our local history and connect with the downtown in a relevant way. It fosters Springfield's downtown by being an anchor museum and providing meaningful employment. I do not support the closer of this important cultural institution.

Thank you,
Laura Reischel

I have recently learned that the State of Illinois is considering closing the state museum system facilities due to budgetary considerations. I am writing to oppose this action. The state museums afford an opportunity to advance knowledge of the rich natural, historical and cultural heritage of our state and to place the resources within a national and worldwide context. The museum exhibits inspire an appreciation of our state heritage and foster an attitude of stewardship towards these resources. The museum displays enrich the lives of people of all ages and are marvelous teaching tools to the young people of the state. Governor Rauner is a proponent of quality education and has recently proposed increasing funding for education. It seems that the learning environment provided by the museums would be a part of his overall support for education in the State of Illinois.

I hope that Governor Rauner considers the value of the museum system when budgetary decisions are made and that the museums remain open. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joan Unsicker
1202 South Hershey Road
Bloomington, IL 61704

The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our schoolchildren, our universities, our researchers and it plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. Teachers at my school have benefited from professional development at the museum and our students enjoy learning about our state's history through a hands-on, tangible experience. The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in our community and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. It would cause great economic harm to our community, both to lose this many local jobs and to lose the tourism dollars that are the direct result of the Illinois State Museum. Further, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that the collection be open to the public. I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the museum open.

Carol Gildar

June 30, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois
207 State house
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

In these difficult times, I write to ask you to reconsider the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. I write you not only as a colleague to those people who work in the State Museum system, but as a concerned citizen who knows how much museums add to our communities.

When the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum was proposed, I joined with others in expressing my delight, but Illinois' story is much larger than one man, even a man like Abraham Lincoln. If even a small fraction of what was spent on the ALL&M went to improve the Illinois State Museum, think of what an attraction Illinois would have. Instead, for all the good and difficult work of the museum's staff, we have a building that hardly does justice to our great state.

The shiny Lincoln Library and Museum certainly earns its kudos, but we as a state owe it to our museum system to support their much longer and deeper commitment to communicating Illinois' story and cultures. I have relied on the professionals in the Illinois State Museum system for advice and expertise. They have loaned artifacts to my museum as we have, in turn, loaned them artifacts. The relationships they maintain across the state, from the North to the South, have been vital to many small museums, historical societies and schools.

I hope you will reconsider this proposed closure. The Illinois State Museum System has only ever made the State of Illinois look good. It has shared Illinois' story even as that story has changed over the years. Surely we must continue to find room for this museum system in the State of Illinois.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Dona Bachman, Director
The University Museum/Museum Studies Program
Southern Illinois University
Faner Hall, Room 2469
1000 Faner Drive, Mailcode 4508
Carbondale IL 62901

I am president of the Southern Illinois Association of Museums (SIAM), a consortium of local and regional museums in Illinois' lower 28 counties that promotes museums, creates networking and professional development opportunities for museums, and develops collaborative projects among museums for educational purposes. SIAM is an organization of volunteers who are dedicated to preserving the history of our region.

I am writing on behalf of SIAM and oppose the closing of the Illinois State Museum!

The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our school children, our universities and our researchers. The Museum plays a vital role in the Illinois economy, and serves over 680,000 visitors annually. The Illinois State Museum is an accredited institution that ranks as a premier facility in our nation.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision, and keep our state museum open.

Please send confirmation that this email has been submitted.

Thank you,

Vickie Devenport
SIAM President
440 Contentment Road
Makanda, IL 62958

The Illinois State Museum at Springfield is vital to keep open in order to preserve our history and culture for the people of the community, state , and nation.

If closed, the loss would not be possible to only measure in dollars, the intrinsic value of our heritage will be lost.

Beverly Brekke-Bailey
2404 Aaron Ct
Springfield IL 62704

June 30, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by: Jean Richards, 6312 Kate Court, Springfield, IL 62712

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

As a life-long resident of Springfield, some of my earliest memories are of visiting the state museum and being awed by all its glorious exhibits and displays. I am positive this experience began my life-long love of learning. I hate to think of children today being denied this same opportunity.

My family is a member of the museum society. We financially support the museum as much as we can because we understand the true value it imparts to both residents and visitors to the state.

It seems extremely short-sighted to close a museum system that generates \$17 million to save a little more than \$4 million.

For these reasons and many others, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jean Richards

While it is unfortunate that it has come to justifying the economic impact of museums, which provide so many difficult to quantify values, the economic value of museums is recognized (references below). For both the economic reasons and the societal value that they provide, I highly support maintaining the Illinois State Museum as a state resource of critical importance.

http://www.ne-mo.org/fileadmin/Dateien/public/NEMONews/nemoNews_1-11www.pdf

https://www.academia.edu/3891962/Assessing_the_value_and_impact_of_museums

<http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/downloads/2cef984a-dd70-11e1-bdfc-001999b209eb.pdf>

Christie Klimas

I am writing to strongly oppose the closure of the Illinois State Museum, a renowned educational and scientific institution that the state should take pride and continue to invest in.

The Illinois State Museum at Springfield has a distinguished tradition of excellence in Quaternary Sciences and employs a number of research curators in the areas of Quaternary vertebrate paleontology, paleoecology, and anthropology. These include Eric Grimm, Bonnie Styles, Chris Widja, Jeffrey Saunders, Jonathan Reyman, and Robert Warren. Eric Grimm's research in particular influenced my early scientific training in Maine and Rhode Island. Several past presidents of the American Quaternary Association have come from the Illinois State Museum. The Museum has important physical collections with particular strengths in Mississippian archaeology and Quaternary specimens. It has been a leader in paleoecoinformatics and helped found keystone computing and data resources such as FAUNMAP, Tilia, and Neotoma. The Museum is also a gateway for students to discover the wonder and beauty of science.

Museums and libraries have great value to the public, reaching far beyond the borders of Illinois. The State Museum helps Illinois citizens connect with local history and even pre-history that set the stage for the state's natural beauty and resources. Since its founding, the Museum has ever been meant to stand the test of time. Shame on Governor Rauner for using educational institutions like the Illinois State Museum that provide public benefit over decades to centuries as a political football!

I most stridently oppose the closure of the Illinois State Museum, which would be a terrible loss for the citizens of the state now and for many future generations, as well as scholars and scientists around the world. To close this museum would be a foolish way to save a little money only to waste the hard work and generosity and investment of generations of past Illinoisians. Keep the Illinois State Museum open.

Sincerely,

Amy Frappier

The Illinois State Museum at Springfield is vital to keep open in order to preserve our history and culture for the people of the community, state, and nation. If closed, the loss would not be possible to only measure in dollars, the intrinsic value of our heritage will be lost.

Beverly Brekke-Bailey
2404 Aaron Ct
Springfield IL 62704

My name is Carole Krucoff, I am an Illinois resident, I am also a Board Member of the Museum Education Roundtable, a national organization for museum educators, and I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum system. For more than 100 years the Illinois State Museum has been a champion of historic preservation and research, as well as an invaluable resource for fostering public interest in the state's history and culture. And the museum's outstanding work has been recognized nationally -- the Illinois State Museum was one of the first institutions to be awarded a system-wide accreditation from the prestigious American Affiliation of Museums.

If the museum system was to close, 70 employees would lose their jobs, and more 68,000 annual visitors, including school children, would no longer be discovering our state's history through tangible hands-on, and minds-on, learning experiences. The job loss, combined with loss of tourism dollars, would cause great economic harm. It would also be a blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution and to the reputation of the state for closure of such an important educational resource. I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the Illinois State Museum open.

I would appreciate learning that this e-mail has been received.

Sincerely,

Carole Krucoff
Board Member, Museum Education Roundtable
Editorial Advisor, The Journal of Museum Education.
Member, American Affiliation of Museums

To Whom it May Concern,

For well over a century, the Illinois State Museum has remained a cornerstone of the state's preservation efforts. I ask that you reconsider its closing, in light of the significant negative impact it will have on our ability to preserve cultural heritage. In addition, dozens of staff and thousands of visitors will suffer from the closing. While the need to address the state's financial crisis is pressing, targeting educational facilities that represent only a fraction of the overall budget is misguided. Significant reform in healthcare, schools, pensions and the tax code will go much further toward solving the actual problem than cutting from small budget lines ever will. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Korst
Local History Coordinator
Oak Lawn Public Library

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an archaeologist researching at a research museum in Germany. I have given a paper at the museum some years ago and I was able to see the high standard work, which is done at the ISM.

I oppose closing the ISM, because the museum is an internationally renowned institution, which covers fields such as anthropology, archaeology, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. All these fields are crucial to understand our present society. Illinois will lose a fundament for its future, as the knowledge lost in case of closure is irreplaceable. Items at the museum's collections are cultural heritage of many people. It is this heritage which makes Illinois a state and more than an accidental agglomeration of people. The museum creates voluntary work, donations of citizens and attracts research grants.

ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. The museum curates a huge amount of objects being historical data, which are endangered in case of closure.

Furthermore, closure will also damage the reputation of Illinois as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Rainer Schreg

I am totally opposed to the closure of this museum of Illinois history, which has operated for more than 130 years. We visit it every time we come to Springfield. This institution is a treasure for the people of Illinois.

Margaret F. Pruter
576 Stratford Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126

It is a mistake to hold long-term public institution investments as hostage over short-term spending arguments. The damage will last long after the immediate confrontation is over.

Sincerely,

Ed Boyle
Professor
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an educator/artist. My students (50 per Art 101 course) visit the ISM each term. My colleague, Doug Stapleton offers a complete discussion of each exhibit we visit. Students always find this a valuable and inspiring field trip!

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.
- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elyse Koren-Camarra

Chicago, Illinois

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am on the board of the White County Historical Society in Carmi, and treasurer of the Southern Illinois Association of Museums (SIAM), a consortium of local and regional museums in Illinois' lower 28 counties that promotes museums, creates networking and professional development opportunities for museums, and develops collaborative projects among museums for educational purposes. The historical society and SIAM are both organizations of volunteers who are dedicated to preserving the history of our region.

I am writing to express my opposition the closing of the Illinois State Museum!

The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our school children, our universities and our researchers. The Museum plays a vital role in the Illinois economy, and serves over 680,000 visitors annually. The Illinois State Museum is an accredited institution that ranks as a premier facility in our nation.

We certainly wish our museums in Carmi had annual attendance of 1/10th of the state museum.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision, and keep our state museum open. We know Illinois is poor, but we are cutting ourselves off from sources of donations, and tourist dollars that will have a ripple affect in Springfield and elsewhere.

Please send confirmation that this email has been submitted.

Cindy Birk Conley
301 S Walnut
Carmi, IL 62821
618-382-2048

Please consider not closing the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. It has our history of the state. It brings tourists, school children, teachers and citizens of Illinois to the museum. It brings money to the state and people employed. I am a 100% supporter of Gov. Rauner and his "turn this state around." I had my art work in Chicago, and Rend Lake. The people which that employed are now without a job, and I am without extra income. Stop spending money we do not have and imagine we will have. We need jobs. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Carolyn Wilson

June 30, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by:

Susan Seymour Stevenson Hebard Holland, 222 West Avenue C, Bismarck, ND 58501

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum System

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a daughter of Illinois families, the Seymour's and the Stevenson's, and am just beginning to research my family ties with the state of Illinois.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons noted here. The progress of history is ongoing, and one can never catch up if the work done in the past to record our stories and people is destroyed, damaged, or made less available to the public. Many state employees for several generations have invested their hearts and careers in supporting the preservation of records, artifacts, information, images and other elements that make our society as strong and wonderful as it is.

Do not jeopardize Illinois heritage by short sighted fear of economic impacts. Please continue to look forward hundreds of years. Who will gather and protect your story? Will your great grandchildren know anything about you except you were one of the ones who broke the continuum of farsighted thinkers, preserving the past?

The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Seymour Stevenson Hebard Holland

Here's an idea to help offset the operating costs of the five Illinois State Museum locations slated for closure: change state statute to enable per user admission fees:

Other Midwestern states use a combination of admission fees and dedicated taxes (state sales tax) to support their museums. For example, the Wisconsin Historical Museum charges \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, and \$10.00 for families.

The Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis charges \$13.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors, and \$8.50 for children. This museum appears to be fairly new and includes an IMAX theater.

The Missouri State Museum has free admission, as do its historical sites, but they are financially supported through a small dedicated percentage of the state's sales tax.

Illinois charges no admission fee to its state museums. It is my understanding that the Illinois state museum campuses cost about \$4.8 million per year to operate, and are visited by about 200,000 people per year. To be entirely self-supporting, the state museum would need to charge \$24.00 per visitor, but with a state subsidy of \$2.4 million per year, a reasonable charge of \$12.00 per visitor could be charged. This is in line with Indiana's state museum. If we would like to keep admission to the Illinois State Museum free, we could consider enacting a small sales tax increase dedicated to this purpose. Missouri's "museum tax" is one-tenth of one percent.

Charging admission to the Illinois State Museum would help support maintenance and interpretive expenses, and might allow for new programs and expanded hours. I encourage our governor and legislators to consider revising our statutes to allow Illinois to begin charging admission (or consider enacting a small state sales tax increase) as a way to keep our state museum open. It is a downstate treasure that is worth keeping open, especially to those who don't visit Chicago frequently.

Richard and Carol Herndon

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a scientist who uses the museums resources for analysis and identification of bone and materials detrimental to preservation of Native American sites.

Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity.

Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Volmut

Regarding possible closure:

Beyond the marvelous exhibits and programs of The Illinois State Museum are the excellent staffs knowledgeable in all aspects of state history, natural history, art, and folk culture which they bring to their visitors every day. The museum is actually (5) museums all across the state: Springfield, Chicago, Dickson Mounds, Lockport and Rend Lake. Closing the museums will essentially put history, science, nature and culture in storage away from the public- especially away from students for whom knowledge of their state is essential. If the thought is to reopen the museums when budgetary issues can be worked out, the knowledge of the collections and stories contained in these institutions may be lost until knowledgeable and experienced people can be enlisted to restore the experiences to be gained from the museums' unique treasures and narratives and those who know them best. If such an interruption were to take place it will result in a tragic loss of contact with all aspects of what defines Illinois.

In fairness, I must state that I was part of 12 State Museum exhibition projects as an independent contractor over a period of 15 years. I place the scholars and experts in this museum system at the top of the 80-some museums I have worked with in my career all across the country. Lastly, these projects are remarkably cost effective in comparison to other museum and commercial projects.

Regards, Frank Madsen

Museums hold the public trust detailing the state's history, culture, scientific, and technical heritage. The shortsighted planning that has suggested closing these facilities as a way to balance the state budget is absolutely insane.

Once no longer under the care of the state museum system, many of these collections will be at risk. When no longer curated, they may disintegrate; they may be sold for pennies on the dollar to private collectors who prohibit access for academic study; they may be dispersed or loaned to other facilities never to be returned to their current location. The collections represent a public investment of 138 years and millions, if not billions, of dollars in collecting, displaying, curating, and studying these collections. Even if the closure is temporary, staff expertise will be lost, fragile pieces will be damaged by the move into storage, and the disruption in curation. It will be impossible to reverse the losses should the closures be reversed later.

Finally the loss in public education is reprehensible. When you close the places that put the "ooo" in a child's eyes, you close their minds to the adventure of learning. You close the places where education happens with little posturing. You close valuable resources for educators of all levels. Those most affected are the young, the poor, the disadvantaged, the disabled, and the elderly.

It is the government's job to protect the public trust, not destroy it, to educate the public, not to steal the treasures that the state's citizens have entrusted to the state. If the government would commit this failure to uphold their duties to the public, what will they do next to the citizens of Illinois and the world?

--

Bonnie A.B. Blackwell, Ph.D., F.G.A.C., F.G.S.A.
Research Scientist, Williams College
Director, RFK Science Research Institute
Director, MPC Science Research Institute

Although I live in Alaska now, I was born in Hinsdale, Illinois. I lived in the state for over 24 years of my life. I can say with 100% honesty that exposure to museums in Illinois had a vital impact on my life. A single trip to a museum exposed me to cultures, landscapes, and ideas that I hardly knew existed as a child. Museums reify what books can only describe. To make tangible what could otherwise only be imagined holds endless inherent value. When we learn about other cultures or even the history of our own, we cultivate the opportunity to challenge existing social norms, foster understanding, and rewrite cultural narratives. Considering today's social climate, achieving these goals takes on added importance. Museums clearly embody myriad cultural, social, educational, and economic benefits, but they also continually inspire future generations to pursue goals they may not have otherwise even known existed. How many archaeologists found their path exploring the Dickson Mounds? How many future geologists and paleontologists have been inspired by Illinois' natural history? I know that the time I spent in museums as a child made me want nothing more than to serve as a steward of history, and today I work as the curator of collections and exhibits at the Sitka Historical Society's Museum in Alaska. I wonder then, what long-term impact does not only the State of Illinois but the rest of the country incur when you fail to inspire the next generation of historians, geologists, paleontologists, archaeologists, biologists, and yes...curators?

Thank you,

Kristy Kay Griffin
Collections & Exhibits Curator
Sitka Historical Society & Museum
330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, AK 99835

The financial condition of the State of Illinois appears dire from what is available through the media, and I do not presume to advocate for how the state arranges its budget to best serve its citizens. However, I wish to comment on the state's foresight and leadership that significantly built the capacity of the Illinois State Museum and influenced a nation. What was said a century ago is no less applicable today, and thus should be considered in a decision like the one contemplated to close the Illinois State Museum.

My qualifications to make this comment are as follows: I possess a bachelor's degree in history and meet the Secretary of the Interior's qualifications as a historian. My master's degree is in nonprofit and public administration, which provides the best practices in operations for a public agency like the Illinois State Museum. And, I have a doctorate in business administration, for which my dissertation examined the finances of all state history enterprises, including the Illinois State Museum. The dissertation established the strong correlation of providing outreach to larger volumes of revenue, and strong indicators consistent with the notion that providing outreach statewide causes greater revenue. My role at the Minnesota Historical Society is to build the capacity of local history organizations of all sizes.

As noted, the State of Illinois was a key player in launching what was called "New History" over a century ago. Reuben Gold Thwaites of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin instituted new methods of preserving, arranging, and disseminating history on a statewide scale never seen before in order to enhance the purpose of history. Dr. Clarence W. Alvord of the Illinois State Historical Survey (in part antecedent to ISM) borrowed Thwaites' techniques and adapted them to Illinois. In the decade leading up to Illinois' Centennial in 1918, Alvord employed and trained numerous historians that made profound impacts on state history in Illinois and elsewhere. Significant to Minnesota are Dr. Guy Stanton Ford and Dr. Solon Justus Buck who both worked for and were trained by Alvord. Ford came to the University of Minnesota early in the second decade of the 20th century, and joined the board of the Minnesota Historical Society (later serving as President). Ford succeeded in hiring Buck as the Minnesota Historical Society's first superintendent (known today as Director & CEO) in 1914. Buck served the Society until the early 1930s when he went to what is today's Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh before becoming the Second Archivist of the United States.

The innovation of "New History" I believe rests in re-establishing the clarity of the purpose of history. As with today, many people did not understand the purpose of history. They assumed then as now that history was an optional extra because it was thought to be a study of the past. The purpose of history is not to know the past, though that may be one byproduct. The purpose of history as established in that era 100+ years ago by both the American Historical Association and the National Education Association was to train people to make defensible decisions. The idea is that by studying history both students and the general public practice decision making skills that are crucial to the public good. The more practice, the better public decisions would be. In order to gain the practice necessary, the primary records and artifacts of the past must be on hand. Dr. Alvord and his team gathered one of the best collections anywhere in the nation for the State of Illinois in preparation of its centennial. Gathering, however, is insufficient. Dr. Alvord and his colleagues then put the primary records into an accessible order so that these

documents could be retrieved quickly and efficiently. Finally, just possessing rich documentation of the past is also not enough - we must use the power of history to transform lives. They did so both in Illinois and throughout the Middle West. The purpose of studying history has not changed since the days of Herodotus (~2500 B.P.). Occasionally historians lose their way as happens in virtually any profession, but the heroes of history like Dr. Alvord of Illinois return us to that purpose.

The importance of collecting and preserving in the moment might be seen in the example of Solon Buck while in Minnesota. Until 1934 there was no national archives for the United States. For veterans seeking benefits due them for their service and who also had lost their own records, accessing official records was difficult. As World War I ended, Buck succeeded in encouraging the Minnesota Legislature to pass and fund the War Records Commission Act of 1919 that enabled Minnesota to collect, arrange, and disseminate the records of service for about 100,000 men who served in that conflict. To wait to collect and arrange such records meant a significant risk for the loss or destruction of records. Buck and the Legislature were correct in taking care of the matter then, for to wait would have significantly increased costs to address the state's obligations to its own citizens. Dr. Buck learned how to implement this project from the leadership of the State of Illinois.

I call on the State of Illinois to remember its leadership in preserving history by fully funding the work of the Illinois State Museum to include an appropriate outreach operation.

The nation finds itself in eerily similar situations today as it did 100 years ago: lean economy, shifting priorities in many areas of life, and looking ahead 60 years to prepare for the National Bicentennial. Illinois' leadership made things better then, and given that the purpose of history has not changed, we need Illinois to be the bright shining beacon of hope it was for the nation in the past so that the nation is prepared for its 300th anniversary in 2076. Your foresight 100 years ago is inspiring - inspire the nation again.

Respectfully,
David M. Grabitske

Morton College students have greatly benefited from the opportunity to exhibit art work through the Illinois State Museum. It gives students the rare and empowering experience to showcase their work in a public forum.

Over 50 students have participated in this unique educational program.

Jane Stevens
Morton College, Cicero, IL
Art Department

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an archivist working for a private non-profit Historical Society in the state of Connecticut. I oppose closing the ISM for a variety of reasons. While you may not be interested in the position of a citizen of another state, I hope you will keep in mind that the Illinois State Museum is an exemplary model for those of us in the museum community. Their professional staff are looked up to by those in the museum field for guidance and knowledge.

The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.

The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.

Furthermore, the closure of any museum puts doubts in the minds of those willing to entrust their family artifacts to our care. They wonder how long before we will close our doors, and will their prized portrait or collection of papers be auctioned off, or shuffled elsewhere never to be found again. Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.

Keep in mind, too, that not all visitors to the museum come from your state. As a frequent traveler, I often make state museums a top destination. I'm sure I'm not alone. In fact, in 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.

And if you care nothing for your cultural heritage, surely economics matter to you. Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy. ISM facilities and grant projects add another

\$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.

Are you truly going to risk the ire of the entire museum community and the majority of your citizens to save a minuscule percentage of your budget? Surely there must be some other way to bridge the gap. The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

I sincerely hope you will give this matter the grave consideration it is due, and choose to keep your museums open.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Hocking, CA

It is with great concern that I write this letter today. Regarding the closure of the Illinois State Museum, and other DNR ran facilities. As an outdoorsman, hunter, fisherman, it is our responsibility to educate and innovate our children about Illinois Conservation. Without the opportunities/facilities to fuel education of Illinois's natural history and conservation, it worries me as to what opportunities are available to our children to learn about geology, biology and natural history. It is the facilities that you are considering closing that give children the opportunities to learn and spark innovation for our future of scientists. Education, Innovation, leads to entrepreneurship and that can lead to venture capitalism. I hope you will explore every possibility of keeping these facilities open.

Joshua A Baumberger

My name is Elizabeth Becker and I reside in Springfield.

I am writing to express my opposition the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum. Such a move will have an impact on all of the citizens of Illinois because of the loss to education, research, the arts, history and much more. It will also deny future generations the opportunity to learn from the rich treasures of the museum. I urge you to work to keep this institution open.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Becker

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of keeping the Illinois State Museum open. I write my opinion as the Immediate Past Chairperson of the Curators Committee of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the Vice Chair of AAM's Professional Network Council, and as a recently designated Outstanding Graduate Alum of the Historical Administration Program of Eastern Illinois University.

It is easy to recognize budget shortfalls as the enormous challenges that they are. However, it is also likely that the Illinois budget shortfall was caused by numerous factors. To focus on the Illinois State Museum, one state entity, as the solution or even a part of the solution misses the point. It does not address the causes of the shortfall.

History museums are an essential part of the community. Their ability to provide a broad sense of place helps us to find our unique value in society. The newcomers and the long-time residents can all find a sense of identity and therefore a purpose in life. By learning from past challenges, each individual is then empowered to make a positive difference moving forward in their communities and beyond. For as we know, all history is local history.

Please be among those who learn from the past in order to educate the future. Recognize that Illinois citizens are a valuable part of the country who deserve to know about their heritage and that that heritage is of value to the nation. Please reconsider your decision to close the Illinois State Museum.

Sincerely,

Ellen E. Endblow

Director of Collections/Curator
Chester County Historical Society
225 N. High Street
West Chester, PA 19380
610-692-4066 x257

My name is Cheryl W. Kopecky, a K-12 educator, and I am opposed to cutting funds for the Illinois State Museum System. The facilities that receive funding provide intergenerational education experiences for Illinois citizens and promote tourism and spending in the communities where they are located. In particular, the Lincoln Museum in Springfield attracts tourists from all over the country. It's one thing of which we can be proud in Illinois.

With serious concern,
Cheryl Kopecky

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability;

My name is Dan Bertalan and I'm Managing Director of the Into the Outdoors Education Network (intotheoutdoors.org) located in Madison, Wisconsin. We produce an online educational network that is used by teachers around the world and also produce documentary films for PBS. I would like to file this written statement about the proposed, and potentially tragic closing of your Illinois State Museum.

You must realize that your Illinois State Museum is a vital source of history, culture, and science that provides your citizens with an educational foundation of maintaining a healthy society. The ISM is recognized as a key educational pathway linking Illinois students with the vibrant and exclusive learning experience offered by visiting the ISM. Don't deprive your citizens and next generation of this rich educational experience offered by the ISM.

Additionally, closing the ISM would damage the image of the entire state of Illinois on a national scale. One reason for this is that our Emmy-winning television production company intends to produce a PBS documentary film will feature your ISM, and specifically Dr. Chris Widga, Associate Curator of Geology and your mammoth display. I believe it would greatly damage the combined tourism, political and economic image of Illinois to have the ISM profiled in a broadcast television program, only to have tourists and educators nationally discover that you closed this important museum.

To preserve the vital benefits to your citizens and the next generation of Illinois voters, please do not close the ISM.

Respectfully,
Dan Bertalan, Managing Director
Into the Outdoors Education Network
P 608.442.5973 / C 608.512.9596
IntotheOutdoors.org

Gov. Bruce Rauner,

I moved to Springfield, Illinois from my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio in February 2013 to attend graduate school at the University of Illinois at Springfield. When my younger sister, cousins, and their friends visited me from Ohio, the Illinois State Museum is the first place I opted to take them. The Illinois State Museum has also played a large role in my education. As a recently graduated M.S. in Environmental Science, I have visited the museum at least 4 times for school field trips, special events, and of my own accord to learn about Illinois natural history and for personal entertainment and enjoyment. My fellow students, professors, and coworkers have used or benefitted from the museum in various ways, from learning about Illinois culture or for thesis research projects. I am thoroughly distraught that Governor Rauner intends to close the museum as it is one of the state's very unique and educational free facilities, especially for the often discounted people of central and southern Illinois.

As an young working individual with a higher education degree, I can vouch for the value that the Illinois State Museum has for people of all ages and education levels. I am now employed in Urbana and plan to live in Illinois, but I find it hard to believe that the state in which I have chosen to live is electing to close one of the few facilities that it actually has to offer to the public. Not only will many working class individuals be left with no jobs or source of income, but the costs associated with closing the museum far exceed the costs of keeping it open.

Please reconsider closing the Illinois State Museum as moving forward with this will not fix the budget nor benefit anyone.

Katie Hollenbeck
Water Resources Outreach Assistant
SmallWaterSupply.org | PrivateWellClass.org
Illinois Water Resources Center
1101 W. Peabody Drive, 035 NSRC
Urbana, IL 61801

To Whom it may Concern:

I would like to have the opportunity to testify at the public meeting regarding closure of State Museums.

I believe these institutions are vital to the soul and well being of democracy, the State, and the People the government purports to represent.

My name is Merry Everingham and I can be reached at 217-666-2625.

Sincerely,
Merry Everingham

July 1, 2015

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a citizen, educator, and artist. The ISM has been a source of information and education THROUGHOUT THE STATE for my colleagues and my students.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM and NUMBERS

- Visitors to the ISM spend **an estimated \$33 million dollars** in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an **estimated \$17 million to the local economy. ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.**
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.
- **Closure will be costly for taxpayers** and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. **Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation.** Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects **that are governed by written agreements and federal law.**
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. **Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.**

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Marilyn Propp

It is inconceivable to me that this is one of the many ill-conceived closures by Gov. Rauner to supposedly save taxpayer dollars. This facility was originally conceived and developed to promote Southern Illinois Artisans. The facility did bring in some income to offset expenditures.

Why is it that the PEOPLE have to pay for the mismanagement of our tax dollars?

How 'bout Illinois politicians get out of the pocket of Big Oil instead?

Retha Daugherty

To the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, State of Illinois:

I am writing to protest the anticipated closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) system. The ISM system is an enormous intellectual and economic asset for the State of Illinois. Over the past 135 years, the ISM has often been at the forefront in scientific research in the midcontinental United States, acquiring a national, even international reputation in the process. Through its publications and extensive public outreach programs has become a model for the dissemination of information, both to the scientific and historic academic communities, but also--an importantly--to the general public. In doing so, the ISM system generates more than 30 million/year for communities in which it is based. If my math is correct, this far and away exceeds the 4.8 millions or so that would be saved in the system's closure.

I urge the commission and through it the governor and legislature of the State of Illinois to find other ways to save the relatively small amount of money that would be saved. Closure, even for a short time, would result in incalculable damage to the reputation of the ISM system.

Sincerely,

Marlin F. Hawley
Independent Researcher
213 Madison Ave
Deforest, WI 53532
mfhawley@wisc.edu

My name is Louis F. Schauer. I reside in Riverside, Illinois.

I am opposed to the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum and hereby file this written statement.

Ideally, we all would like to see the State Museum remain open. If budgetary restraints compel the State to withdraw funding, there is a way to accomplish this while avoiding closure. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has announced a plan that would close the Museum's facilities to the public but would "continue to maintain and secure the museums to protect the artifacts and exhibits". It also has recommended that "a small staff...be retained to secure the Museum to protect the artifacts and exhibits".

I would urge that the continuing but reduced budget be supplied to the Museum and that it remain open and function as a stand-alone operation serving the people of Illinois. It would be allowed to raise the balance of its budgetary needs from private sources.

Avoiding closure means the professional staff would remain intact. These are the people who develop the concepts and background materials for the exhibits, conduct research on the art, archeological and natural history collections, and communicate the knowledge resulting from those researches to the world at large and to coming generations of citizens in the educational programs of the institution.

And the alleged savings of several million dollars by the closure is more than offset by loss of tourist dollars to the economy of the State and the loss of professional staff.

I end by observing that closure of the Museum to the public and layoff of professional staff would doom any attempt to raise funds privately.

Thank you.

Louis F. Schauer

To whom it may concern,

I was dismayed to hear about plans to close the Illinois State Museum. The Museum has an excellent track record for its work in Quaternary Science. The research curators are prominent scientists and Eric Grimm, whom I know best, is a globally respected palynologist and palaeoecologist. Few in our research community worldwide will not have used his bespoke software, such as TILIA and NEOTOMA. In 2012 we acknowledged his excellence and his role supporting other scientists by awarding him an Outstanding Service Award at our International Paleolimnology Symposium in Glasgow 2012.

Museums are specialist institutes that preserve, protect and interpret our culture and history. They are also places where the wider public, young and old, come to understand our place in the world and contemplate the future of society in the face of climate change and declining biodiversity. I hope every effort is made to prevent closure. Such a short-sighted act would have repercussions not only in Illinois and the USA but also worldwide.

Rick Battarbee

Professor Rick Battarbee FRS
Environmental Change Research Centre
University College London
London WC1E 6BT

Hello,

My name is Karen Wilcoxon and I am a citizen of Lewistown, IL. Lewistown is the home of Dickson Mounds Museum. This museum is a great asset to our community. My fiancé and I are getting married there at the end of August and have had this planned for over a year. I am begging you to please not close our museum. We have three children who love the museum and the programs that it offers. Our school district makes regular field trips there. The history of our county and state are in that museum and it would be a grave loss to our community and state if Dickson Mounds closed. Please save the museums! My email address is klwilcoxon@grahamhospital.org and I would like to know that you have received this message. I would also like to receive updates on the status of the museum as we have a wedding scheduled there. Thank you.

Karen L. Wilcoxon

I am a juried artist into the Illinois Artisans Program. The Arts are an economic driver, and improve the quality of life in communities. When you compare the top rated states, they all have a vibrant art community. This includes all arts, visual, dance, theater, music.

Please reconsider closing the museums in the State..do you think people come to see our corn fields...no they do not, they love our culture, history and artists.

Thank you.

Mariann Barnard

It is wasteful to close a museum. To have the doors closed entirely to the public is extremely wasteful of the resources that have been built up over time. You know the numbers of the people who spend the money in Springfield to see the historical and cultural sites. Springfield Illinois and its associations with history and government are a part of the framework that INSPIRES young people. Inspiration to our youth is a beacon of hope. I had taken many field trips with Morton H.S. students so they could see Springfield and participate in a mock government program. Seeing the ISM helped them to form questions about the states past. When students are questioning that means they are looking for answers and found the answers at the ISM.

The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.

I realize that the state is trying to save money and has a large budget deficit...but closing an asset to the state is NOT the solution. Please do not close this institution. This is not a positive solution. You can do better. What are you thinking?

Letitia Roller

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a student, museum educator, and ardent history lover who feels that all citizens deserve a state museum to visit and learn about their past and in doing so learn more about themselves.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- Not only is the ISM a hub for culture and history, but it fosters scholarly work in Illinois, as the professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
- 370,000 visitors came to the ISM last year. Think of how many people learned something from their visit to the ISM. Think of how many people questioned their perceptions, saw beauty in the past, or had their worldview widened. That is 370,000 people per year who will no longer have this incredible resource for knowledge. The citizens of Illinois will feel that loss and the damage to the public trust will be irreparable.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

-Carissa M. Dewaele

I am opposed to closing the IL state museum

Carrie Pierson

My name is Laura Furman. I am a resident of Roscoe, Illinois and the Curator of Midway Village Museum in Rockford, IL.

I am writing to strongly SUPPORT THE CONTINUING OPERATION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM.

The Illinois State Museum has had a reputation for decades as a stronghold of Historical and scientific education, Scientific research, and tourism. They serve thousands of school children each year, opening their eyes to our heritage and environment showcasing one of a kind treasures that can not be experienced anywhere else.

In addition they are a major part of the Springfield, IL tourism machine that adds millions to the state economy each year – much of that from visitors coming from out of state and bringing us their money.

I have had many enjoyable and enlightening visits to this facility with my family and friends. It would be a travesty to have it closed.

Sincerely,

Laura B. Furman
Curator, Midway Village Museum
815-397-9112 x108

Dear Governor Rauner:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum. The Illinois State Museum is deeply respected in the scientific community for the expertise of its curators and for its irreplaceable collection of archaeological, cultural, and paleontological artifacts. The Museum has legal obligations to maintain and curate these artifacts. Its curators are nationally and internationally recognized scientific experts in the areas of archaeology, paleontology, geology, and geoinformatics.

Closure of the museum would, of course, be a deep loss to the citizens of Illinois, particularly the children. The Museum serves as a gateway for students to discover the wonder and beauty of science. I write this from my perspective as an expert in geology, geography, and paleoecology, based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sincerely,
John Williams
University of Wisconsin-Madison

To Whom It May Concern:

The Illinois State Museum is a treasure and an asset to residents from across the nation. I reside in a town of approximately 2,400 people called Lewistown, Illinois. Through the efforts of the public, we have a visitor's center, a blacksmith museum, a railway museum, a historic preservation of a home once belonging to Major Newton Walker and Dickson Mounds Museum. It is a wonderful area to be a tourist in, especially if you have lived here your whole life like I have. We recently had a crew from Italy who filmed a movie relating to the Spoon River Anthology. All of these things and many more comprise our cultural heritage in this area. It is so much more than a rural farming community and I am proud that my young children will have the opportunity not only to hear of how their hometown and the surrounding areas came to be, but to experience the past in a museum environment. Very simply put, there is a better solution than to close these museums and destroy the opportunity for current and future generations to experience something unique and educational. I am a patron of the Illinois State Museum and my children often visit the Dickson Mounds Museum during the activities they have made available to develop young people's interest in history. I urge those reading this, as so many have already done, to take the necessary steps to avoid this unnecessary action. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nathan A. Collins,
Attorney at Law

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dr. Glen Freimuth and I want to go on record as OPPOSING the closure of the Illinois State Museum.

Respectfully,

Glen Freimuth, PhD

Closure of the Illinois State Museum would be counter productive to the economic health of our community and State. The savings would be a drop in the bucket.

Timothy J. Granzeau
1608 S Willemore Ave
Springfield, IL 62704

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a pediatrician in Taylorville, Illinois. I am also a parent, former Illinois student, and frequent visitor to the ISM System. I have visited the museum as a child on family trips, as a grade school student on class trips, as a college student studying biology, as a medical student bringing visitors from out of town to explore the history of Illinois, and now as a parent when I bring my own children to see the exhibits. The museum is a part of my history and my community, but my interest in preserving the museums is not just emotional. I am aware that Illinois faces a fiscal crisis, but closing the museum will cause more issues than it can ever hope to fix. For the sake of brevity I have listed only a few of these reasons below:

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.
-
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
-
- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.
-
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

Closing the museum will not help our state's fiscal crisis. It will only serve to further damage our economy, damage our cultural heritage, and damage our communities. For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer DeLuka, MD

Greetings,

I write to you today to advocate the importance of the Illinois State Museum system to the well being of current and future Illinoisans. A closure of even one of the many facilities comprising the Illinois State Museum system would rob future generations of access to countless resources, collections, and knowledgeable staff. The state of Illinois provides an invaluable service in opening many of the facilities of the Illinois State Museum at no cost to the public at a time when many other museums, galleries, and institutions of higher learning are charging higher and higher entrance fees that are already out of reach to many rural and low income Illinoisans. The facilities of the Illinois State Museum are vibrant hubs of innovation in the natural and behavioral sciences, arts, and letters - key components to a thriving and industrious society. Their impact cannot be measured just in terms of dollars and visitors, but in the impact to Illinois society as a whole as a source excitement, wonder, and imagination.

I have been tremendously impacted by the Illinois State Museum, specifically Dickson Mounds Museum. After one summer of archaeological investigations in the central Illinois River valley co-sponsored by Dickson Mounds Museum, I became forever intrigued by the peoples who once called the state of Illinois home. The collections housed at Dickson Mounds have enabled me to delve into the social and behavioral lives of these peoples in ways I never imagined possible. My term as the R. Bruce McMillan Museum Intern with Dickson Mounds in the fall of 2014 was a remarkably exciting and rigorous engagement with the museums collections. The resulting data I collected during the internship are currently being assembled in my doctoral dissertation. My dissertation would not have been possible without the support of the Illinois State Museum and Dickson Mounds.

I am but one of countless graduate students and researchers currently working with materials housed in the Illinois State Museum system. The collections and materials housed by the museums are involved in cutting edge research that benefits not only the state of Illinois but broader scientific communities as well.

Again, I vehemently oppose the closure of any facility comprising the Illinois State Museum system, citing the need for their continued presence as a critical component to Illinois as a thriving and industrious society.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Upton

Andrew J. Upton
Doctoral Candidate
Michigan State University
Department of Anthropology
354 Baker Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
uptonand@msu.edu

July 1, 2015

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a citizen and professional museum educator. I know how important museums are to the state of Illinois, and how much of our cultural history is currently held in the public trust by museums in the Illinois State Museum System.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.
- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Cate LiaBraaten

I totally am apposed to the closing of the ISM. I am a retired elementary school teacher and have been volunteering at the museum for the past 5 years. You will be denying children free access to a valueable learning experience.

Paula Gruebel

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

My family and I have enjoyed the Illinois State Museum for more than 20 years. We visit Springfield every few years, and a big draw is touring the ISM during our vacations. The interesting and informative exhibits, the dedicated staff, and the exciting Illinois Artisan shop all make for a wonderful and educational visit. As a dedicated volunteer with my local historical society, I passionately support museums.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- Every community values museums and sites that bring money into the economy. Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy!
- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums; fewer than 5% of museums are accredited. An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.

These are just some of the reason that I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Leslie Sulla
Lombard, IL

The museums are an integral part of the Illinois heritage. They provide a wonderful archive of who we are and how we have come to be. I especially enjoy the Lockport facility and what they do for the schools, the community and Illinois as a whole.

There are many things which benefit us less than our heritage.

Good luck with these difficult decisions.

Phil Tripp
p_tripp@hotmail.com

To Whom it May Concern:

I am vehemently opposed to the closing of museum facilities in Illinois. As a History Major at Knox College, I had the pleasure of participating in an internship at Dickson Mounds. To have the world-class facility and staff only a few minutes down the road meant more than any college class I could ever take. The experience of learning the history and practices of the site were invaluable. Dr. Dickson was the father of modern American archaeology -- his contributions should never be forgotten, and his site should never be closed. I remember visitors coming from other countries to learn about the site, which is quite remarkable.

On a personal note, Dickson Mounds has been the location of several important events in my life. It's where my husband and I were married. It's where we just held the baby shower for our first child. In the future, I want to be able to take my child to places that not only have special meaning in my life, but where they can learn, grow, and experience new things.

I'm a firm believer that money comes and goes. The history of where we come from, how we got here, and our amazing state should never be inaccessible to anyone who wishes to learn about it. Please do not close our museums.

Sincerely
Ashton Woll
615 S. Maple
Lewistown, IL 61542

I am adamantly opposed to the closure of any part of the Illinois State Museum. Such a proposal is not simply foolish and short-sighted, it is a cynical political move which does nothing but bring discredit to Governor Rauner, who initiated this proposal in an attempt to bully the legislature into acceding to his budget and tax policies. Oscar Wilde defined a cynic as a man who know the price of everything and the value of nothing, and that certainly seems to be the case here.

The Illinois State Museum is and extraordinarily valuable institution, serving the people of Illinois as an educational and cultural resource continuously since its establishment in 1877. As far as I know, the Museum has remained open for that entire time, surviving financial crises at least as drastic as the one the State is experiencing today. Even during the Great Depression, State leaders resolved that the Museum was too valuable to close.

What's more, this is not a proposal to temporarily close the Museum, it is a proposal to permanently close it, and apparently dismantle its collections and their repositories. Such an action would be an incomparable loss to the citizens of Illinois and the other institutions which rely on them.

I visited the Public Comments section of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, and I found not one single comment that expresses anger, disappointment and outright contempt for moving forward with this proposal. Not a single writer expressed any support whatsoever for this travesty. Even in my personal encounters with family, friends and associates, I cannot recollect a single sentiment other than opposition to this move.

It appears that the people of Illinois are overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the Museum and its institutions open. I sincerely hope our elected officials listen and heed these sentiments.

Logan L. McMinn
1831 South Lincoln Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62704

today to hear that our museum is being shut down is almost too shocking and extremely disturbing- are we not a country of cultural and moral values? do we not encourage our citizens to be prideful of our achievements? are we not a city (Chicago) which invites the world to our doorstep because of our great art collection proudly displayed in the city and in its environs.

this is truly shameful to imagine that culture is being eroded in such a manner.

being aware of so much waste among our legislators who place their needs before their communities seems to be the obvious reason for them to go into "politics"

our museums need to be supported.

Jaroslava Lialia Kuchma

As artists in the Illinois Artisans Program, my husband and I were really sorry and disappointed to hear about the closing of the galleries and museums in Illinois. For the past decade, we have shown and sold our work in Rend Lake and the James R. Thompson Center museums. It was thrilling to be chosen to be a member of the Illinois Artisan Program; and I don't have to tell you how hard it is to make a living as an artist, especially during the years of the Bush Administration.

Our economy is rebounding and now this happens! I realize that Illinois has major budgetary issues. It is ridiculous that our State is billions of dollars in the red. And I also realize that measures have to be taken to get our "house" back in order.

But how does it serve Illinois to put people out of work; deprive the tourist industry of our museums; and ruin the chances of Illinois artists to make a living? The State government keeps raising property taxes to pay the deficit yet puts people out of work at the same time. How can we pay even more property taxes when you take away our means for making a living?

And while you are putting people out of work, the State Legislature is voting to give itself a raise! This is unconscionable.

Our museums benefit everyone. The tourists who come to our State; the people who work at the museums; the artists who show and sell at the museums; and they elevate the mind, body and soul, from the horrors of the news. It was an art museum that inspired us in the first place to create and follow our dreams as artists.

This is a sad day. I hope that the Governor can find a way to spread the sacrifice evenly and across the board for all programs. Cut all programs by 10% or 20% rather than dismantling everything. And go after the crooks who bilk the system.

You can't keep raising taxes as a solution. It is forcing us to leave the State; the State we have lived in our entire lives.

Jackie Kalmes & Mark Tobolski

Closure of the museum would be a detriment to the community of not being able to provide the educational services and not being able to provide the history of Illinois. I am adamantly opposed to the closure of the State Museum.

Liana L. Cameron

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an artist (www.nicholesgallery.com), parent, and a public high school art educator who has been teaching within Illinois since 1998. Additionally to note, I have been an Illinois Artisan represented at both the Chicago and Rend Lake Galleries since 2000. I have enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to show my work with other Illinois Artisans throughout the area and have been proud of the State of Illinois for supporting the arts.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

If the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System is closed, we are sending a negative message to others within the United States and beyond that the State of Illinois does not support our rich history, cultural centers, and artists; resulting, in lowering the status of Illinois. Through the arts, we as a society are able to better understand ourselves and others within the world in which we live. The Illinois State Museum System is a vital component in providing individuals to take a moment to reflect, to appreciate other cultures while offering a unique perspective of humanity. It is the responsibility of Illinois to preserve the arts and our history- fulfilling its promise of protecting the numerous historical donations by loved ones who believed these artifacts would be safe within the ISM for many generations to come. What a shame it would be to lose the prestige the Illinois State Museum System has worked so hard in maintaining throughout the years.

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.
-
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
-
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
-
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.

-
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.'s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.

-
- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

YOUTH EDUCATION

- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts "Saturplay," a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM's summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.

-
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.

-
- Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

NUMBERS

- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.

Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors Dickson Mounds in Lewistown: 50,000 visitors Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors Southern Illinois Art Gallery near Sesser: 18,000 visitors Springfield: 200,000 visitors

- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

-
- ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.

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- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nichole Gronvold Roller

I have been a proud member of the Artisans Program for over 5 years, and have modestly sold my work at the Thompson location.

Retail locations for artists are very difficult to come by; this program has allowed many of us to get just enough sales to reinforce our belief that our work is progressing in a viable direction.

Selling is important, please do not close down one of the best opportunities we have in Illinois to highlight work by our artists. You should be increasing the number of outlets, not decreasing them.

You are closing down a business opportunity that is important to us and the State.

Bob Krawczyk

Hello, My family and I love and use the museum and feel that it is important to us and the culture of our state that public institutions such as the Illinois State Museum remain open to us. I am the Creative Director for the Buckminster Fuller designed Center for Spirituality and Sustainability on the campus of SIUE. I am about half way through the 7 step process of adding our building to the National Register of Historic places. I'm working closely with the IHPA through this process and I understand that the IHPA is also at risk of being defunded. I feel it is vital to our cultural heritage and it is fundamentally necessary to our society that our history continue to be communicated to our citizens of all ages through the Illinois State Museum.

Thank you,

(217) 960-4892
Benjamin Lowder
Creative Director
Center for Spirituality and Sustainability

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an assistant curator at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa. The Dickson Mounds Museum played an important part in my education and in my decision to pursue a career in the museum field. I served as a volunteer intern there, and the experience was invaluable. The staff and facility are second-to-none, and provide a much-needed service, not only to their local community, but to those of us who study this country's history.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.
- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

YOUTH EDUCATION

- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts "Saturplay," a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM's summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.
- Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Cheryl Smallwood-Roberts

Cheryl Smallwood-Roberts
 Assistant Curator
 Gilcrease Museum
 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Road
 Tulsa OK 74127
 918-596-2734
 cas409@utulsa.edu

the closing of the state museums is truly tragic.
 they are a vital part of showing ilinois history and talent.
 as an il artisan it saddens me that these wonderful places will not be available to the public, both the
 state residents and the any tourist passing thru.
 here in so. ill it is a vital part of the area, there is not a lot here. the children come in the summer for art
 classes, so many of our schools have cut out art, and it is a vital part of our childrens lifes.
 the facility at whittington was like an oasis. with beautiful art work, demos, workshops, things that
 inspire people.
 i am and always will be proud to be an illinois artisan.
 i know budget cuts are necessary, but the arts should not be sacrificed.

kay wiggins(weaver of baskets)
 whittington

The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our schoolchildren, our universities, our researchers and it plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. Teachers have benefited from professional development at the museum and students enjoy learning about our state's history through a hands-on, tangible experience. The Illinois State Museum employs a significant number of people in Springfield and serves over 680,000 visitors per year. It would cause great economic harm to lose this many local jobs and to lose the tourism dollars that are the direct result of the Illinois State Museum. Further, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that the collection be open to the public. I add my voice to all who are making this plea and strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the museum open.

Everyone in the state knows that you, Governor Rauner, Senate President Cullerton and Speaker of the House Madigan have power and egos. And each one of you can punish or reward pretty much whomever, whenever and however you choose. There has been enough of that. For once forget power, set your egos aside and work to resolve this state's extraordinarily bad situation. To paraphrase former US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton as she 'discussed' a rather embarrassing situation of her own, at this point what difference does causality make? What does make a difference is that, as a matter of common sense, the three of you quit your nonsense and work together to resolve the state's financial problem.

Norman Langhoff
2154 Huntleigh Rd.
Springfield IL 62704
217-416-4029

The Illinois Museum and Illinois Artisans Shop has been an asset for the people of Illinois for many years. Are we cutting off our nose to spite our face by closing off access to valuable cultural assets?

Perhaps we could save money by turning off the electricity at the governors mansion. I am sure there are many other just as viable solutions that which could be considered.

Sorry. Governor Rauner might be good at earning money as he has proven in his life but his methods that are affecting the general public leave much to be desired and that is an understatement.

My prayers are with him, hoping he might consider we the people and our teachers, who play such an important part in the lives of our children. Wisdom is needed.

Elizabeth K. Green

Art is a foundation for all who indulge to learn, create, and share.

When children are exposed to art and art experiences, it broadens their minds and creativity and social nature.

As an adult creating my art, it is a form of therapy and peace for me. I can escape into what I am doing and feel I am a richer person for it.

I have enjoyed being a part of the museum system for more than 12 years. I also purchase other artists work because something handmade is so much more personal than fabricated items. I feel it promotes tourism and imagination. It is made in America, Made by Americans and Made in Illinois. How much more wonderful can it be.

With all of the negative things that surround us today, I would really hope that there is a way to keep this "gem" going well into the future.

Please reinstate the museums of Illinois and keep jobs instead of eliminating them.

Thanks

Cindy Schuch

Ceramic and Stained Glass artist

As a concerned citizen, I respectfully submit this written statement in opposition to the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum.

Two years ago, I traveled to Springfield with my 5-year-old son. Our top three destinations were the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, the Illinois State Capitol building, and the Illinois State Museum. We spend an entire afternoon at the Illinois State Museum and my son enjoyed learning about the geology of Illinois, seeing a Tully Monster fossil, examining mastodon skulls and teeth, learning about extinction, and participating in his own fossil dig in the children's play area.

It is critical that our children have an opportunity to learn about and understand our State's natural history and geology in order to become thoughtful and informed citizens who can make appropriate decisions about its natural resources for future generations. This investment in our future directly contributes to the welfare of our State and its people. I hope you will reconsider the value of the Illinois State Museum and reinstate its funding beyond August 2015.

Kind regards,

Pamela J. Clayburn

Director, Grants Compliance

Field Museum of Natural History

1400 S. Lake Shore Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Governor Rauner,

I cannot believe that in 2015 you are considering closing the Illinois State Museum. The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our researchers, universities and the children. All cultures save the past in a museum for generations to learn and enjoy. Our past must be preserved and accessible to the citizens of Illinois.

My grandson has enjoyed visiting the museum on numerous occasions and asks to go to the programs that are given for our young. The seniors enjoy the brown bag lectures at the Resource Center which are informative and showcase that beautiful facility.

Our museum employs many intelligent individuals who preserve our past so others can enjoy the beauty and wonder of our state. Tourism is a plus for the city of Springfield and the state. To lose this museum is a crime. Many jobs will be lost causing the city's economy to be hit hard.

Recently my family went to the Illinois State Museum on two occasions to see the "Art of Text" exhibition and to attend the wonderful lectures.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and keep the museum open.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Buffington
Concerned Citizen

As a life-long resident of the State of Illinois, I am appalled at even the thought of closing our state museum. How can any person or persons be so irresponsible and short-sighted to not see the VALUE of our museums, not only presently, but also for the future? In reading through many of the letters already written and posted, I did not find any statement that I disagree with, so rather than repeat so many eloquent expressions of opposition to the closing, I add my support and agreement to all of them!

It should not be an option for current office holders to even consider closing an institution that has benefitted the State of Illinois for over 100 years. Who are they to take this vital part of our education and heritage from us?

Catherine Williams
Watseka, Illinois

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a ***citizen/artist/teacher who has used the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery for observation, study, research and field trips with students.***

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- The Illinois State Art Gallery is an important resource for artists, teachers, and the public to share and exhibit art from all over the state. There are far too few opportunities in Illinois for artists to display their work in a carefully and professionally curated not for profit venue.
- The Gallery employs many very talented people who work tirelessly and thoughtfully to put together exhibitions that showcase Illinois artists and artisans in a unique setting, exposing and showcasing those artists and their work in a much needed way to the public at large.
- Art teachers from all levels and from all over Chicago and Illinois use the gallery as an important teaching tool to show kids how important the Arts are to a free society, and in the case of high school and college level students to show them not only opportunities for exhibition but also to stimulate ideas for their own work as budding and emerging artists.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

William Jeffrey Janson

As an artist for many years with the IL Artisans Shops, I feel it would be a huge loss to Illinois to dismantle and close the museums and shops that dot our state.

Not only do the shops serve as an outlet for products made in IL, but they are a tremendous resource for those who wish to support our local artists and museums.

You would also be dissolving a strong educational component by taking this misguided action. The Arts are vital to all!!

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Thank You,

Nancie King Mertz

www.NancieKingMertz.com

ArtDeTriumph & Artful Framer Studios

2938 N Clark in Chicago 60657

773-832-4038

Museums are such vital resources to the public that I am amazed their closure would even be considered. There's another way; please find it.

Raise my taxes if you have to, but keep our museums open.

Christopher M. Strong

CS

Just my comment:

I am not elegant with words like the Springfield State Journal-Register or the American Alliance of Museums about the closing of the Illinois State Museum so I will use just plain ole words people can understand.

OK, I'm going to say it -- Please, don't throw out the baby with the bathwater! The Illinois State Museum must stay, but all of you who represent us are not listening to us. Don't you want other people from around the nation to spend dollars here? Not only do museums and parks draw visitors, it teaches our own children about their state history which they should be proud of. It just all can't be about A. Lincoln.

There is plenty of waste in this state, but this is not one of them. Dickson Mounds? Close them and they will never open again.

Nancy Scherer
Chillicothe, Illinois 61523

Do not close the Ill. State Museum. How do you explain to the civilized world that you are closing museums?

Don Dorosheff
424 N. 4th St.
Springfield, IL 62702
217 801-2086

I am a concerned citizen who lives in McDonough County, Central Illinois. Please consider this as my written statement in opposition to the closing of these three museums and the dismantling of the Illinois Artisans Program.

As a former tourism and business executive, Illinois Artisan, and teacher, I am certain that these closures will cost the state much much more money than they will save. The museums are vital to our tourism industry, which brought in \$57 billion dollars in 2013 and supported over 550,000 jobs. They are, in fact, profit centers, with wide-ranging benefits for local businesses. Cutting expenses by eradicating profit centers doesn't make good business sense.

The museums also provide field trips for public schools, research opportunities for college students, and educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for local residents.

I first visited Dixon Mounds as a small child over 60 years ago. I have visited it many times since and now live close by. It has instilled in me a love of archeology and a reverence for our ealiest inhabitants. I can imagine it has done the same for the hundreds of thousands who have also visited it.

The museums sustain our cultural heritage, our history, and our economy. It would be such a mistake to think that these closures could result in any good.

Thank you for considering my heartfelt concerns.

Ramona Cook
45 East 2000 St
Industry, IL 61440
(309) 254-3228
45 East 2000 St
Industry, IL 61440

Closing this Museum would be a detrimental to our community. As a preschool teacher I can say with great confidence that the Museum has been influential in the academics of my students. Digging up fossils, dressing up in period clothes, building artifacts, and many other hands on activities in the Play Museum were great learning activities that my students would not have had the chance to experience without the museum. My students did not only love the Play Museum but also the rest of the museum. They learned the words stalactites and stalagmites, saw a giant mammoth and got to explore many other scenes. This was by far their favorite field trip of the year and where they learned the most. It would be a great travesty to see this museum closed. Thank you for your time.

Stephanie Wise

Many galleries do not include fine craft so the available places to exhibit is very limited. Even with the internet artworks should be seen in the real world to appreciate their beauty.

The Illinois Artisans Program brought visibility to my fused glass artworks. Participating in the Art Sprees at the Thompson Center in Chicago gave me an opportunity to introduce my art form. Since it is a different medium I was able to bring samples of the process and teach people something new.

There are so many wonderful artists living in Illinois that should be introduced to Illinois residents. So many products are mass produced and our local uniqueness should be celebrated.

Add art to life. Add beauty to life.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Rial

It is a great shame to the people of Illinois to close one of the great historical treasures and research institutions, especially while lowering taxes for the rich.

Suzanne Meinheit

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Ronald Meyer, and I am a retired physician living in Wilmette, Illinois. Two weeks ago, I visited Lockport, IL, to enjoy the historic sites, and I was so disappointed to see that Governor Rauner's administration has decided to close the Illinois State Museum in Lockport. I had looked forward to seeing the inside of the Norton Building and to enjoying the exhibits.

I am strongly opposed to closing any of these important state museums. They are an important part of our heritage, our culture, and of course they contribute to getting people together, sustaining community, and generating tourism jobs and tax revenue. In my opinion, it would be penny-wise but pound foolish to close these venerable museums.

I do not mind paying higher income taxes than the current 3.75% if the money is used to meet our obligations to government pensions and to important institutions such as the State museums.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely, Ronald Meyer

610 8th St

Wilmette, IL 60091-1902

I am opposed to the closure of the Illinois State Museum. It is an invaluable resources for the state, nation and beyond. I would rather see reduced hours than a closure.

Sincerely,
Edith List

--

Edith Pfeifer List
Dow, IL

The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our schoolchildren, our universities, our researchers and it plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. Teachers at my school have benefited from professional development at the museum and our students enjoy learning about our state's history through a hands-on, tangible experience. The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in our community and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. It would cause great economic harm to our community, both to lose this many local jobs and to lose the tourism dollars that are the direct result of the Illinois State Museum. Further, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that the collection be open to the public. I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the museum open

*Barbara Mazurek
Cary, IL*

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining open the Illinois State Museum Gallery in Chicago. This place is highly important for showcasing local artists, particularly the Native American Community-- and closing it will leave a huge hole in the available spaces for showcasing contemporary art from Illinois residents.

Sincerely,

Alaka Wali
Curator of North American Anthropology
The Field Museum
Chicago, IL

I strongly oppose the closing the the Illinois State Museum in general and the Chicago Gallery in particular. Since moving to Chicago in 2002 I have seen consistently excellent exhibitions in the Chicago Gallery, most of them curated by Associate Curator Doug Stapleton. Stapleton, whom I have also heard lecture on multiple occasions, is extremely knowledgeable about Chicago and Illinois State artists and local history of art. He and his colleagues would be particularly missed in our region because they fill in gaps opened by omission at the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Art Institute of Chicago.

We are well known nationally as a strong art city. Eliminating the ISM Chicago Gallery would weaken our position and discourage people on a national level who are interested in donating art, traveling exhibitions, and sending family to our art schools. Our strong art scene here--in all media--advertises and promotes our city on levels other than art.

I strongly urge you to retain the Illinois State Museum, especially the Chicago Gallery.

Sincerely,

Rod Slemmons

Former Director, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago
Former Adjunct Faculty, School of the Art Institute

kiffandrod@earthlink.net

312 942 1505

1536 W Adams St
Chicago, IL 60607

Closing the various Illinois State Museum facilities would be devastating to the State of Illinois and the communities that are served. Tourism dollars would be lost.

Educational opportunities would be lost by the thousands of schoolchildren that visit the museum annually.

Illinois' own "Smithsonian" with its' over 13.5 million cultural and natural objects at the Collection Center would be lost forever and never recovered.

Outstanding knowledgeable personnel would be lost forever.

The museum would lose its national accreditation, which took years to achieve.

I have personally donated over 100 artifact from my collections. Originally I thought I was giving up a part of my life, however I was told I was preserving it for others that may not have similar opportunities in the future. Now I, and others will not be able to make future donations. I feel betrayed.

In 2007 the Illinois State Museum was awarded a \$564,651 grant to develop the Oral History of Illinois Agriculture. It was developed by the Illinois State Museum in partnership with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The opportunities for that type of grant will no longer exist.

This covers only a portion of the adverse effects of closing.

Obviously, little thought was given to the devastating consequences that closing the Museum facilities would have. I urge that the decision be reconsidered and reversed.

June 27, 2015

Raymond J. Ackerman

I and my family have been long time members of the Illinois State Museum. I wish to register strongly as an opponent of closing the facility. Our lives have been enriched for many years by all that the Museum includes as have the lives of countless other people.

J. Anthony Nelson

When I was a little girl the IL State Museum was one of my favorite places. My grand daughter is 3 now I hoped to take her to the museum next time she comes to visit me from LA California - 😞please don't close the museum.

Janet Wells

I am very distressed that the Illinois State Museum system is a victim of the failure of Illinois' legislature and Governor to pass a budget by the deadline. I am unhappy about the budget gap; but for this email, am specifically unhappy that the State Museum system has been shut down. I want the budget to enable the entire system to reopen with full funding needed.

I am in the Illinois Artisans Program and have sold some of my products through this system. I was born and raised in Illinois and am a current resident of Illinois. Hopefully there will be more opportunities in the future. But I've also bought some items from my fellow Artisans, and hope to buy many more. My being involuntarily unemployed makes it hard enough. But with the system closed and the stores empty, it's impossible.

There are a number of State Museum locations I haven't been able to visit yet.

I'm told that all these are very valuable to visitors of all kinds, including Illinois schoolchildren. This is where Illinois tells its own story, and presents its own arts and culture, of the present as well as from our history.

I'm also told that accreditation by the AAM requires the system to be open to the public. It can't be just for authorized scholarly researchers in private.

Please make sure my message supporting the Illinois State Museum System is properly entered into the record.

Jean SmilingCoyote
maiinganikan@yahoo.com

Dear Governor,

I am highly opposed to the proposal to close the Illinois State Museum. It is a vital resource to our state, our school children, and it plays a vital role in the economy. Not only does this great Museum employ over 65 people, it serves over 680, 000 people per year. It would cause great economic harm to our community to lose the tourism dollars it generates as well as not be available for education and cultural advancements.

I strongly urge that you reconsider this decision and help keep the museum open! It would be tragic not to; both from a cultural and economic perspective.

Thank you,

Vicki Striegel
Executive Director
Victory Centre of Bartlett
1101 W. Bartlett Road * Bartlett, IL 60103
Direct 630-540-3011 * Main 630-213-0100

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an Illinois Artisan, who has participated in the program for the past 5 years. This program has enabled me to exhibit and sell my art, as well as to network and connect with others. I am very disappointed that Governor Rauner has decided to cut funding to the program and close the museum in Springfield. As a teaching artist, I know that the arts matter, and have seen it change many young lives for the better. I am a full time professor at the American Academy of Art in the Chicago Loop. The museum and shop in the Thompson Center is a great place to introduce people to visual art. I understand the need to balance the budget, but Rauner's veto of the Democrats' budget was too sudden, and impacts many lives. It would make sense to scale back by closing the facility downstate at Rend Lake. But the Chicago facilities get many visitors, and should remain open.

Please listen to the people!

Sincerely,
Sarah Kaiser-Amaral

My name is Elizabeth Pickett. I am writing to let you know that I vehemently oppose the Illinois State Museum closing. My children are adults now, but I used to take them to the museum all time when they were younger. The museum was a favorite with me because it was educational and free. My kids loved the exhibits and looked forward to ending their visit in the children's area. I now take care of my twin toddler nephews. Imagine my surprise when I took them there for the first time last week and discovered it was closing. I am appalled that the state government would even think of closing an important museum because it's free and cost money to maintain. I am sure that there are other ways to help fund it. Please do not close the museum. I am looking forward to take my grandchildren there one day. I would like to be put on record of appearance only. I would like confirmation of this email, my email address is dwpander@gmail.com. Thank you for your time.

Elizabeth Pickett
concerned citizen

My name is Angela Schneider. I am a taxpayer, a voter and strong opponent of the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum. My children are grown now, but they have benefited from the educational opportunities available at the Museum throughout the years. It is a wonderful place with wonderful staff. This "138 year old gem " should be kept open.

Angela Schneider

My name is Christopher Noonan. My family were some of the earliest settlers in Sangamon County. My middle name is Hay, after John and Charles Hay, confidants and advisors to Abraham Lincoln. I grew up in Springfield and have watched over the years the various opportunities squandered to grow our community. We are the State Capitol of the 5th most populace state in the Nation yet by whim of legislators, are no where near the communities of Indianapolis, Columbus, Madison, or Austin....btw, Indy and Springfield were the same size in the 60s... I am 3rd generation financial advisor locally. We have been part of building this community, despite the State's continual draw away from a more efficient and lower cost central management system, have still been able to grow, albeit despite those forces. We have an opportunity to once again say NO to taking something away from Springfield and have those in power at the State level recognize the significance of our downstate culture. Having the worst financial rating and balance sheet of all 50 states notwithstanding, this should not be a Springfield problem, where counter productively you take over \$17 million out of our local economy, disproportionate to let's say Chicago, where billions are wasted annually.

By now you've seen the outstandingly good talking points for the Illinois State Museum. The facility carries a rich heritage of visits from school age children around the State, including myself at the impressionable age, where history matters most. My 5 children have all been and continue to visit and take part in museum events, most recently a Girl Scouts of America overnight stay.

Arbitrarily taking out such a significant iconic established museum for, IMO, political reasons in unconscionable firstly, and sheer lunacy secondly. This institution carries thousands of donated artifacts from families that trusted the State in perpetuity, and that is a sacred trust. Sending them to Chicago is the go-to playbook it seems, however downstate is tired of the endless slaps in the face and respectfully appeal to whatever sense of decency you might have to keep this outstanding educational and cultural facility alive. The donors to this institution have put millions into its operations every year. The number of international scientific visits, anthropological discoveries, and continued examination by our fine scientists and curators should not be trivialized. My aunt Nancy Patton spent decades volunteering at the museum and would be sickened by this action if she were here today. The Capitol of this State should have a world class museum. Taking it away as some sort of temporary fix on past administrative financial blunders is a mistake that will weigh heavily forever. I urge you to vote to keep this great museum alive, not only that, but question the very motives of this consideration. You have the opportunity to join our voices in the middle of the State, send a message, we will not take away from downstate, but defend and question why the engine of economic growth, opportunity, and jobs continually fall to the north. Thank you sincerely for your consideration

Christopher H Noonan
53 Fairview Lane
Springfield, IL, 62711
(217)-652-6461

Destroying the cultural vitality of our state will end up costing us much more in dollars and quality of living. This is short-sighted, backward thinking to put people out of work, eliminate all cultural institutions and eliminate income and sales tax from these sources and call it "saving money". The Artisans Program is a big part of the tourist attraction to the State Museums-- you take away artists, you take away tourists and you take away money for the state. Its a lose-lose proposition.

Fund the cultural institutions of the state and increase taxes. Period. Run the state responsibly. Stop destroying tourist income in the name of saving money.

Laurie Blakely

Dear Mr. Raunner,

It's more in life than just "money in you pocket" Perhaps if you pickup a book that is not economics related, or how to grow your wealth, you could understand better. It's more to visual arts that goes why beyond the looks of your latest SUV or whatever you ride. It's more to quilted art than your bed's comforter. It's more to jewelry art than just Cartier. It's more to ceramic arts than just plant pots. It's more to glass arts than thermal windows. It's more to painted art than just the color of your living room. It's more to drawing art, than just architectural drafts.If you don't know anything about art, perhaps you should take some art classes, for free, at the museum that you are trying to close.

Sincerely,

Paulo R. De Andrea
Illinois Artist
Illinois Artisans Member

I'm strongly opposed to the closing of the Illinois State Museum. A loss of this great cultural asset would be devastating to a large portion of the people.

PLEASE KEEP IT OPEN

Sincerely,
Robert Brozio, Springfield, Illinois

It is RIDICULOUS to hold us hostage to the whims of this Governor when it is the governments fault that we are in this mess. Find alternate funding sources like Colorado's and stop hurting tourism in the state. MY WIFE AND I ARE OPPOSED TO THE CLOSING OF THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM.

Craig and Carolyn Hart
RR#3 Box 731
Vandalia, IL. 62471
618-326-8655

I want to express my deepest disappointment in the Governor's decision to close the Illinois State Museum. This facility has been such a wonderful place for learning and exploration for children, parents and educators alike for so many years. I remember going to the Museum as a child for overnights and having fun seeing all the exhibits. I am a Springfield resident and have lived in the area all my life. I am now a mother of two. When my son went to the museum for the first time, his face lit up. He LOVED the mastodon exhibit and seeing all the Indian artifacts. ISM doesn't have just a local impact. It has touched some many lives and to close it would be such a disservice to the community.

Chrissy Thomas
Concerned Citizen and Parent

My name is Chere Steiner and I live in Milan, IL. I'm OPPOSED to the closing of the Illinois State Museum. I've visited this facility since I was a little girl and my youngest child, now 40 years old, loves coming to the museum. I'm astounded to hear it may be closed.

We routinely stop at other state capitols and museums around the country but have always felt the museum in Springfield provided the best representation of how we became who we are today. Perhaps adding a "Hall of Shame" to display our crooked politicians and charging an entry fee would generate the funds needed to keep this wonderful place open.

I was born in Illinois and have lived here most of my life. There are few things to be proud of in this state. Our tax burden is one of the highest in the country yet it's never enough. I suggest you close the capitol building instead – nothing productive comes out of that place. Keep the museum open so we can be reminded that once upon a time, we were great.

Chere steiner

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mark Walczynski. I am writing this letter in response to the possible closing of the Illinois State Museum (ISM).

To begin, I am a lifetime resident of Illinois. My professional working career was with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Office of Law Enforcement. Since I left the DNR six years ago, I serve as a volunteer with the Starved Rock Educational and Historical Foundation, conducting research on Illinois history, giving guided tours of state parks, and providing information to the public at the Starved Rock State Park Visitor Center. In 2012 I received a Volunteer of the Year from the IDNR.

With these things said, I am greatly concerned about the possible closing of the ISM. In my career with the State of Illinois, I have worked with ISM staff who are some of the finest anthropologists, archaeologists and researchers in America. ISM researchers are on the cutting edge of new horizons in the knowledge of the past. Closure of the ISM would mean the loss of some of the finest researchers in America today, something that would represent an incalculable loss of knowledge.

The ISM also houses artifacts that were unearthed during archaeological excavations that belong to the Peoria Indian Tribe, the last remnant members of the great Illinois Indian Tribe. The ISM has been granted custody for safekeeping of these items by the tribe. What would happen to these precious artifacts, items of great spirituality and importance of our state's namesake people if the ISM was not there to maintain custody of and care for these artifacts? On this same note, think about the thousands of items donated to the ISM by private citizens who trusted the State of Illinois to care for them, things that could have been sold at auction or donated to other facilities, but were not.

As a historical researcher who has written two books on Illinois history; gives presentations on Illinois history at libraries, museums, and even international conferences; and who has boasted of the great untold story of our state, I believe the citizens of Illinois will be the ones most hurt by actions to close the ISM. We have a fabulous history in Illinois that needs to be told. Closing the ISM will only hamper efforts to educate people on our state's greatness. It will also put in jeopardy our state's remarkable reputation for being on the forefront of the acquisition of knowledge.

The IDNR, to which the ISM belongs, is a tiny agency. At full staff during the 1980s there were only, roughly, 2,500 IDNR employees, a figure that represented only three-tenths of one percent of the state budget. Today, the IDNR is about half that size. Even if the IDNR, let alone the ISM, were eliminated, the financial benefits wouldn't even be noticed. The employees of the IDNR and ISM are ambassadors of our state. They represent the best of what Illinois has to offer. I'm sure there are bigger fish to fry..

Please accept this email as my testimony to the closure of the ISM.

Mark Walczynski, Tonica, IL

To whom it may concern,

I would like the content of this email to be considered as a Written Statement Filed in opposition of the closure of the Illinois State Museum and its satellite museums, including Dickson Mounds Museum.

My name is Nicole Silva, I am a PhD student at Michigan State University. I have worked on the Morton Village Archaeological Project for the past three years and will be working with this project for my dissertation research. The Morton Village Archaeological Project is a joint archaeological research project between Michigan State University and the Dickson Mounds Museum (a satellite museum of the Illinois State Museum).

For the past three years I've spent my summers in Illinois getting to know employees at the museum and local volunteers who participate in our archaeological project. The public is incredibly interested in Illinois history and they sometimes cannot believe that the state has such a vibrant past. This unnecessary closure of the museum would shut Illinois off to researchers and the public who are interested in Illinois history.

This closure would not only affect the employees of the museums, but it will also negatively affect countless graduate students and researchers that rely on the Illinois State Museum and its satellite museums for assistance with research, access to archaeological collections, and access to archival documents.

Please consider how many people this closure would affect, think of the young students and children in Illinois who will not have access to the history of their state and to the graduate students who are so invested in Illinois history that we want to spend our life's work investigating this past. Please allow the vibrant past of Illinois to continue to be accessible and do not close down the cultural landmark that is the Illinois State Museum.

Sincerely,
Nicole Silva

--

PhD Student
Department of Anthropology
Michigan State University

My name is Ethel Chiang and I am writing to oppose the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum. At a time when education of Illinois citizens has never been more important, this is a foolish proposal.

I am a regular visitor to the Springfield museum as well as to the Dickson Mounds museum.

Sincerely,
Ethel Chiang, MD

To whom it may concern:

The collections, exhibits, and research available at the Illinois State Museum are a vital, nationally prominent resource for the state of Illinois. The research underway at the ISM is world renowned and the public exhibits, displaying this research, is a major tourist and visitor attraction. As such, the ISM plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. Teachers have benefited from professional development opportunities at the museum, and generations of students have learned about the state's history through hands-on, tangible experiences. The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in the Springfield community and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. Closing such a grand institution and important tourist destination would cause great economic harm to the community, in terms of the loss of jobs and tourism dollars. Furthermore, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that collections be open to the public.

I hope you will reconsider this decision, given the history and long-term potential of the ISM as a center of learning, discovery, and inspiration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Whitlock
Professor of Earth Sciences
Co-Director, Montana Institute on Ecosystems
106 AJM Johnson Hall, Montana State University
Bozeman MT 59717

Sirs:

I am a professor emeritus of Geology at the University of Central Missouri, and an elected Fellow of the Geological Society of America. Myself, colleagues, and students have benefited from the work done by the Illinois State Museum for over 40 years. The Museum's public education concerning the Geological History of North America has provided invaluable to school children, the general public, educators, and scientists.

Please consider the value the Illinois State Museum has provided for many years in your closure discussions.

Thank you for your consideration,

John W. Emerson, Ph.D

Close the Illinois State Museum? Oh, my. My parents took me to a comparable museum when I was ten, and it changed my life. I had no life goals before that visit. After that visit, I wanted to be a scientist who studied the past. In the end, that is exactly what I became; I am now an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Big deal, you might think—one life changed. But what that museum accomplished is way bigger than that. I have taught science to thousands of students in my career, many of whom have gone on to be scientists themselves. I have mentored 22 Ph.D. students, all of whom are leading scientific lives of their own, and many of whom are teaching students of their own.

Big deal you might think about this as well, but strong science leads to an economically strong and physically healthy United States. If Illinois doesn't care about that, then so be it, but if it does, then, for this particular scientist, it all started in a museum visit when I was ten years old. The Illinois State Museum really is that important. There are far better ways to save money.

Donald K. Grayson
Member, National Academy of Sciences
Professor
Department of Anthropology and Quaternary Research Center
Box 353100
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

Governor Rauner

I understand there is a proposal to close the Illinois State Museum (ISM). It is difficult to adequately emphasize the importance of maintaining this leading institution and treasure house of our collective history. The ISM has an enviable high-profile reputation in research and education, known throughout the country for its key contributions to our understanding of the history of Illinois and events in the state's past that are integral to the history of our nation. Museums are often under scrutiny when budgets are tight, but the expertise and collections in museums are among the most difficult to recreate once they are lost. Financial savings of closure are small compared to what would be lost should the ISM be closed.

I urge you passionately not to close this exceptional institution of national and international reputation. The state of Illinois will be diminished, and no doubt regret the decision if closure is pursued.

Gifford Miller

Professor Gifford H Miller
INSTAAR and Geological Sciences
University of Colorado Boulder

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and a student of Earth, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Batbaatar Jigjidsuren

Graduate student,
Earth and Space Sciences,
University of Washington

“The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our schoolchildren, our universities, our researchers and it plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. Teachers at my school have benefited from professional development at the museum and our students enjoy learning about our state’s history through a hands-on, tangible experience. The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in our community and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. It would cause great economic harm to our community, both to lose this many local jobs and to lose the tourism dollars that are the direct result of the Illinois State Museum. Further, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that the collection be open to the public. I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the museum open.”

Randy Ackerman

As a Quaternary (glacial-interglacial age) research scientist, I study the surficial geology of the state of Illinois and the related societal impacts (groundwater, seismic hazards, sand and gravel resources, landslides, engineering properties, waste disposal, etc.). We also study fossil records of the Quaternary (mainly Pleistocene) that include ice age flora and fauna that record paleoecological and paleoclimate changes in our state over the past million years or more. Such fossils include large ice age mammals (Mammoths, Mastodons, and Sloths) to small invertebrates (snails) or plant material (fossil wood, pollen). In this aspect, I have worked with the Illinois State Museum and also relied on their excellent research team, data, and collections. In this context, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

In addition to the scientific research capabilities, the Illinois State Museum has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the significant scientific and societal services provided by this high visibility museum system, and please save the Illinois State Museum for our scientific legacy and understanding of Illinois and for the current and future generations in Illinois.

Sincerely,

David A. Grimley, Associate Quaternary

Geologist

David A. Grimley, Ph.D., Associate Quaternary Geologist
Illinois State Geological Survey
Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois
615 E. Peabody Dr., Champaign, IL 61820

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned and disappointed about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects of state, national and global importance. The ISM System also has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education. The citizens of Illinois need the ISM for the valuable research that they contribute, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children in a modern society. Please do not be short-sighted (like our Federal Canadian Government) and preserve an institution that has an international reputation.

Please save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Brian Cumming, Ph.D.
Co-Director, Paleoecological Environmental Assessment & Research Lab (PEARL)
Professor, Dept. of Biology
Queen's University
116 Barrie St
Kingston, ON
K7L 3N6

My name is John Franzen and I would like to register my opposition to closing the museum. Over my 32 year career as a Forest Service Archaeologist, many times I have relied on the specialists at the museum for analysis of animal bone from archaeological sites. Not only was this a valuable service, it provided experience for students at Illinois universities, and generated some income for programs at the museum. Closing these facilities is "penny-wise and pound-foolish." I had been planning to visit Illinois this fall to visit various historical and cultural sites, and also to volunteer at the museum. I would definitely not visit the state if the museum facilities are closed. Luckily, historical and cultural sites and museums in neighboring states would still be open. Please reconsider this narrow-minded and short-sighted proposal- your state deserves better. Thanks for considering my comments.

John G. Franzen

To Whom It May Concern-

I am most distressed to learn of the possible closure of the Illinois State Museum. This depository of our state's history of its land and its people is vital for future generations' understanding of who we have been and therefor who we are. Over 1.5 million virtual visitors use these resources, to say nothing of those who visit the museum in person and who spend money in the communities where these sites are located. Here in Springfield, the museum has been the Saturday destination of generations of children and a site frequented by residents as they display to their visitors the many learning opportunities Springfield offers.

Please also consider the loss of the many collections in the museum as they are mothballed or dispersed.

DO NOT CLOSE THIS FACILITY because of a short-sighted effort to save merely \$5 million when you look at the long term cost of such action and the whole budget of the state.

Sincerely-

Doreen M. O'Brien
9 Sunset Lane
Springfield, IL 62704

My name is David Steward. I am writing to express my concern about the threatened closure of the Illinois State Museum system.

I strongly oppose the closing of the Museum system. I offer this written statement to be filed to support my view.

The Illinois State Museum system is one of the finest institutions of its kind in the country. It is the state's only official record of the human and natural history, culture, art, and social heritage of our great state. Its collections, developed over 138 years, are comprehensive and unique among state museums anywhere, and the expertise of the nationally recognized staff is a truly precious treasure. Closing the Museum system would result in the loss of all of these irreplaceable resources, and the state would be much poorer than the simple loss of the material items held by the museum might suggest. In fact, we would deprive generations to come of the ability to gain a true understanding of what it means to be an Illinoisan. I urge the State of Illinois to avoid a true tragedy; please do not close the Illinois State Museum System.

Thank you,

David E. Steward
1304 Oakland Hills Court
Springfield, IL 62704

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of **the Illinois State Museum System**. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

In particular, I'm very familiar with the work and reputation of Dr. Eric Grimm. Dr. Grimm is a world leader in paleoecology research and in database management and geoinformatics, who is leading an international effort to develop and archive global database on ecological and environmental changes, as funded by the US National Science Foundation.

Sincerely,

Professor Zicheng Yu
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Please save this beautiful place this is a safe learning facility for my children please i want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy this gem of a museum.

Lana Bottoms

The museums are a vital part of the state and are essential to continued intellectual growth. Further, our state's Native American history is of interest to and belongs to not only our state but to our country. The closure of the museums would negate years of research and stifle future exploration that helps us grow as a society.

Jeanne Handy

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor

State of Illinois

207 State House

Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Elin Whitney-Smith, PhD

To Whom It May Concern,

For close to 25 years my husband and I have been selling our handmade art-jewelry and stone sculptures through the Illinois Artisan Program (a part of the Illinois State Museum Society). This has been an extremely rewarding experience and losing this program will be deeply painful to us in many ways. We have developed many important relationships with customers and staff. This program serves so many people within Illinois as well as folks from other states and countries. It would be a terrible shame to lose the rich cultural and financial benefits of this program, that took many years of care to build, by closing this important venue... Please don't do it! Doing so would negatively impact us, as well as many others.

Sincerely,
Mary & Spencer Watson

Mary Watson
Silver Stone Handcrafted
847-253-5806
www.SilverStoneHandcrafted.com

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

William N. Mode

Please reopen the Illinois State Museum campuses in Chicago, Lockport, and Springfield. These facilities were very efficiently financed and operated. The loss of our state museums is a black eye for Illinois.

Sharon Hoogstraten

Hoogstraten Photography
3071 W. Palmer Square
Chicago, IL 60647

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned and frankly disgusted about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Baker

Professor Emeritus

Department of Earth and Environmental Science

University of Iowa

We should not have to wait for a future archeologist, to rediscover a long lost museum and the invaluable history it preserves within its walls.

History lost, is history from which we can never learn.

Please do not stop our learning. Please maintain this important cultural and educational asset to Illinois.

Regards,

William (Bill) Messner

To Whom It Concerns:

Please do not close the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, IL. This museum is a valuable resource for all residents and visitors to the city of Springfield. I know an employee who would be affected by the closing. The Illinois Artisans Gift Shop is a great revenue source and offers exposure to various IL artists as well as resource material for other statewide attractions. The funds saved by closing this museum would not be worth losing such a prized facility. Thank you.

Susan Kessler
Chatham, IL

I am writing to oppose the closure of the Illinois State Museum. The Museum is a state treasure that thousands of people visit every year. It serves a need for education and outreach to citizens of Illinois and beyond. In addition, it serves to house collections unique to the state of Illinois. The Museum houses collections donated by private citizens; where will these artifacts/specimens go if the Museum is closed?

I am a faculty member at Eastern Illinois University. I am a paleontologist and I have worked with the staff at the Museum. They are some of the best in their fields. I have brought classes and workshops of in-service teachers to the Museum. It is a resource that our state cannot afford to lose. I understand that there is a need to balance the budget, but to close the Museum is simply too great of a loss. Every state needs to have a Museum that serves the citizens of that state. Illinois needs a place where school kids and out of state visitors alike can visit to learn about the ancient peoples of Illinois, and the ancient environments of the area.

Thank you for the chance to voice my opinion,
Katherine Lewandowski

Katie Lewandowski
Assistant Professor of Geology
Science Teacher Certification Coordinator
Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920
217-581-7270

As an Illinois artist and member of the Illinois Artisan Program, I would like to register my shock and disappointment about the closure of the program. We all know the importance of artists and artisans in the culture, education and appreciation of the arts in our state. Not only do the arts inspire and add to the fabric of our state culture but is the responsibility of the state government to support the working artists of Illinois in this small way.

It is my hope that this closure will be reconsidered and reinstated for the benefit of our state and the many visitors to Illinois so that they can enjoy the work of Illinois artists.

Sincerely,
Francine Gourguechon
www.chicagomosaics.com
fgourguechon@gmail.com

The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our schoolchildren, our universities, our researchers and it plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. Teachers at my school have benefited from professional development at the museum and our students enjoy learning about our state's history through a hands-on, tangible experience. The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in our community and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. It would cause great economic harm to our community, both to lose this many local jobs and to lose the tourism dollars that are the direct result of the Illinois State Museum. Further, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that the collection be open to the public. I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the museum open

In addition to the standard remark above, this proposal actually will cost Illinois far more than the benefits received as there will be substantial costs to deaccession artifacts and disassemble exhibits only to have them regenerated later with a future budget solution. This is not the type of leadership we should be seeing from Gov. Rauner, we should be looking at cost effective budget solutions. Historic preservation activity and museum support are actually state profit centers, not cost centers, and curtailing these resources will actually increase the net operating deficit without these contributing funds from these projects. Look elsewhere for savings and look harder.

Bill Kenney

Dear Governor Rauner,

Just because you do not think you appreciate art, don't forget how much your election depended on it. Graphic arts, performing arts, photography, the written word, fashion, grooming, atmosphere, lighting, scripting, and many other forms of art and combinations of art helped you win the election. Although your money played an important part, it was the arts that you were paying for.

Patricia A. Stewart

I strongly oppose the closure of the State Museum. For 138 years it has been the guardian of our cultural heritage. Moreover, the Museum's revenue is many thousands more than would be saved by closing it.

It is critical to the education of all Illinois children, as can be seen by the many schools which tour during the school year. Please, save the Museum from this ill-advised proposal.

Barbara Dickerman
718 S. 7th, Springfield, Ill.

Commission Members: I am writing to you to make a record of my opposition to Governor Rauner's proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum. I am a lifelong resident of Illinois and a fan of museums in general. I am also a realist when the financial situation of our state is discussed. Having read many of the letters posted on your website concerning this subject, and having many years of personal experience with art and cultural institutions, I realize that my concerns will echo many you have already received. Primarily, I am concerned that the governor's decision is penny-wise and pound foolish because the ISM's contribution to the economy of Illinois is more than 10x the projected savings. As a capitalist Governor Rauner should value an investment that pays that type of return. Not only does the ISM provide educational opportunities from grade school through graduate school and beyond, it is an important economic generator for Springfield and Sangamon County. In addition, through its program promoting the work of Illinois artisans (Mr. Blue, for one), it has an economic impact that is felt statewide. I urge you to keep the ISM open and support its valuable programs.

Martin J. Jordan

I do not believe closing the Illinois State Museum and its affiliated branches is in the best interest of Illinois' citizens. These facilities provide historical and cultural resources that teach both children and adults about our heritage and make them proud to be from Illinois. I also believe the loss of tourism dollars to the communities around the facilities is a negative factor that cannot be omitted from this determination.

Sincerely,
Amy Hamilton
301 E. 6th Street
Sandwich, IL 60548

July 7, 2015

Dear Governor Rauner:

My name is Theresa Vincent. I am 8 years old and will be in third grade at Cathedral School in Springfield.

Why do you want to close the museum? There's lots of great artwork there and the prehistoric exhibits are really cool. Plus, I want to be the first paleontologist to discover dinosaur bones in Illinois. Where would we put them if the museum is closed?

The museum has a wonderful gift shop, and the passport program is really fun. The movies are great, and kids really enjoy the play area.

The mastodon, giant sloth and giant beaver are just waiting to be seen. You know what? This place has inspired my love for science. There's a giant dragonfly, a dunkleosteus coming out of the wall, an arthropuera as long as a man, and the trilobites – oh they are little creepy crawlies just so cool to look at.

The exhibits are inspiring and educational, and the Indians are so real.

The museum is a great place where people can enjoy and learn about science and history of Illinois. Please don't close the museum.

Sincerely,

Theresa Vincent

July 7, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 703 Stratton Building Springfield, IL 62706

Comments by:

Andrei Cimpian
1120 Mayfair Rd.
Champaign, IL 61821

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a faculty member at the University of Illinois who has frequently visited the museum. I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts “Saturplay,” a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM’s summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that

accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.

- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.
- ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Andrei Cimpian

The Illinois State Museum is a critical part of the history, research, art, and cultural heritage of the great state of Illinois. ISM was a great place to grow up and I spent hours there as a child exploring the exhibits and collections with my family. Thousands of school children continue this tradition and learn about the great history and natural history of Illinois.

The research that goes on at the Illinois State Museum is known across the country and around the world as are the collections it houses. Closing ISM would bring to a halt all current research and collecting efforts and make it impossible to ensure the long-term preservation of the existing collections (something the ISM and the state of Illinois have agreed to do in perpetuity when they accepted materials from thousands of donors.

You cannot just shut the doors of a facility like this and walk away. More to the point, why would you, when keeping those doors open brings in more dollars to the state's economy than dollars it takes to run the institution. That just doesn't make economic sense.

Find another way and keep this critical representation of what makes Illinois great operational.

Thank you,
Jill Koelling Friedmann

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor

State of Illinois

207 State House

Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 school children visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois.

I benefited from being able to conduct my graduate research at the Illinois State Museum Research & Collections Center in Springfield, Illinois. The research I conducted at this facility was a cornerstone of my graduate work, and I learned essential skills under the tutelage of the staff at this facility. I would not have been able to complete my graduate studies had I not had the access to this facility and staff. I am gravely concerned about the proposed closure of the ISM because of what it would take away not only from the citizens of Illinois, but also the effect a closure would have on Illinois's academic institutions, and especially on existing and future graduate students, who will become future leaders in the workforce, both in academia and industry.

Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Leila M. Gonzales, Ph.D.

July 8, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

ATTN: Facility Closure 10956 N Dickson Mounds Rd, Lewistown, IL 61542

Comments by: Amanda Atchley 45 East Side Square Canton, IL 61520

Facility Being Closed: Dickson Mounds Museum

Position: Opposed

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Dickson Mounds Museum.

I am Executive Director for Canton Area Chamber of Commerce and work as the Deputy Director for Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development where we focus on tourism in Fulton County. Dickson Mounds Museum is one of our largest tourist attractions that we send our visitors to explore.

I oppose closing the Dickson Mounds Museum for the reasons listed below: Generations of Illinois citizens have supported Dickson Mounds and its mission of research and education for over 80 years. Dickson Mounds serves as a cultural and educational focal point for a rural, underserved population. Dickson Mounds served over 50,000 people last year; most of whom live within 50 miles of the Museum. Closure of Dickson Mounds would have a detrimental impact on the financial and educational well-being of the surrounding communities.

Amanda Atchley

Executive Director
Canton Area Chamber of Commerce
45 East Side Square, Suite 303
(309) 647-2677 Ext. 3
www.cantonillinois.org
www.facebook.com/CACC61520



To close this facility is utter foolishness.
Forget any future votes from me or my family if this happens.

roger schnelten

Good Morning,

My name is Missy Towery, I am the Executive Director for the Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development and I am OPPOSED to the closure of the Dickson Mounds Museum in Fulton County.

It is estimated that state museum visitors spend \$33 million each year in Illinois.

Generations of Illinois citizens have supported Dickson Mounds and its mission of research and education for over 80 years.

Dickson Mounds serves as a cultural and educational focal point for a rural, underserved population.

Dickson Mounds served over 50,000 people last year, most of whom live within 50 miles of the Museum.

Closure of Dickson Mounds would have a detrimental impact on the financial and educational well-being of the surrounding communities.

Lastly, I can remember going to Dickson Mounds on field trips as a child and being absolutely amazed with everything we saw. The museum has only improved over the years. **This is a HUGE tourism attraction for Fulton County and we absolutely cannot afford to lose those outside dollars!**

I will be appearing at the hearing on Monday, July 13th at 4:00 p.m.

Missy Towery, PCED

Executive Director

Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development

45 East Side Square, Suite 303

Canton, IL 61520

Office: 309-647-2677 Extension 2

Cell: 309-645-4696

Closing the Illinois State Museum system will be a huge detriment to the citizens of the State of Illinois. These museums are catalysts for innovation and progress, which can be seen as a multi-faceted process of growth. Museums and other cultural institutes attract and generate constructive ideas that often come about from the physical work of artists or through experiences by the audiences. Museums ignite economy, science, technology, and the arts. To take away institutions that foster this kind of thinking and learning is a shame.

I think museums are an incredibly valuable resource for public education and engagement in research and whole brain thinking. Let's face it. There aren't many instances of high school students and members of the general public walking into galleries on university campuses to experience the arts in action. But in the *museum* environment, museum-goers can interact with live exhibits and gaze into glass laboratories where scientists are working.

Research studies have even shown that museums can have important impacts on literacy of the greater community served by that museum, and impact public understanding, attitudes and behaviors, and future thinking towards technologies.

The bottom line of museums is not to provide someone all the knowledge they need, but to inspire them, to become a launching point. Society is nothing without this.

MARIE BUKOWSKI

Director & Professor

School of Art and Design

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Mail Code 4301

1100 S Normal Avenue

Carbondale, IL 62901

I am writing to express my deepest concern over the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum. Aside from the historical value of this facility, the importance of the collections housed at this facility cannot be understated. In an age when the human induced effects of climate change are no longer in question, having the collections currently curated at the Illinois State Museum provides a needed benchmark against which changes in species biogeography can be compared. I cannot think of a more valuable institution for the State of Illinois in terms of understanding the distribution of organisms and resources, both inside and outside the state boundaries.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Stephen J. Mullin, Ph.D.
Editor, *Herpetologica*
Chair, Department of Biology
SFA Box 13003
Nacogdoches, TX 75962-3003
tel: 936.468.3601
fax: 936.468.2056
email: sjmullin@sfasu.edu
<http://www.sfasu.edu/biology/>

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor State of Illinois
207 State House Springfield,
Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Tyler Richards

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a Children's Librarian and member of the public, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national, and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois.

Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Mallory Caise

As a librarian, taxpayer, and member of the public, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. In addition, here in Chicago and elsewhere throughout the state, these museums bring in thousands of tourism dollars. Surely the people of Illinois and elsewhere should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Jenny Benevento

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a passionate student of science and history, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Sarah Gregory

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a student, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Beth O'Hara

Illinois State museum visitors spend approximately \$33 million each year in Illinois. Closing the museum and branches would eliminate this income for the communities of Illinois. For the past 80 years, Illinois citizens have supported Dickson Mounds and its mission of research and education. This museum is run by experienced staff who delight in sharing their knowledge with school children, their parents, amateur archeologists and many other groups of people in central Illinois. Dickson Mounds serves as a cultural and educational focal point for a rural, under served population, serving over 50,000 people last year, most of whom live within 50 miles of the Museum. Closure of Dickson Mounds would have a detrimental impact on the financial and educational well-being of the surrounding communities of Fulton and Mason counties, rural counties without other opportunities.

Dickson Mounds Museum, and the events it hosts, including Emiquon Audubon Society meetings, Illinois Valley Archaeological Society presentations, Emiquon Corps of Discovery programs, as well as programs held by The Nature Conservancy regarding the restoration of the 7,000 acre Emiquon Nature Preserve, are what brought me and my husband to move to Fulton County. We would never have moved here from Peoria had it not been for the museum.

Please keep the Illinois State Museum and all of its branches, including Dickson Mounds Museum, open to serve the citizens of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Jane Garrison Ward
28186 E US 24 Hwy
Lewistown, Illinois 61542
309-453-3571

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a student and citizen of Northbrook, Illinois, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. In addition, the museum generates millions of dollars in revenue for local businesses. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Damisch

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a student, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely, Michael Grovier

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a student and member of the public, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Hayhurst

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist, educator, and student of museums, I find the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System to be deeply concerning.

The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. These objects do not belong to the government, or to curators, or even to the institutions who house them. They belong to the people, and not just those who live in the great state of Illinois. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society.

Would closing the ISM decrease the budget deficit you currently face?

Maybe, at first. But there is no way to measure the monetary and cultural value of the collections housed within these institutions.

Shuttering these museums to save money is akin to setting the Mona Lisa on fire because you felt cold. Sure, it fixes your problem temporarily, but when the fire goes out, you have an even larger deficit ? both cultural and economic ? than you originally had in the first place. Tourism would slow, and the federal grants which had been previously pumped into the Illinois economy would dry up. And in the end, for what? A 0.15% decrease in the overall deficit?

I know your job is incredibly difficult, trying to save money wherever possible ? I don't envy the position you hold, and I know I certainly couldn't fill your shoes. But I implore you, Governor Rauner ? don't be remembered by history as the governor who shut down the Illinois Museum System. Be remembered as the governor who saved it.

Sincerely,
Nick VanAcker

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

Although I have visited other facilities in the state museum system, I am most familiar with Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown. I am originally from Fulton County and now live in Havana. As a child I remember going to the museum for school field trips or going there with the family. Today I use the museum as a part of my job, community service efforts, and personal enrichment.

As an Educator with University of Illinois Extension, the museum and its staff have been a key component of many of our programs. I've held multiple workshops and other educational sessions at the museum during my 26 years with Extension. Honestly, it is the best facility in our area for many of the programs I've done through the years. We do a Gardeners' Big Day there each April that attracts about 200 visitors, and I don't think we can find a comparable facility to replace the museum location if it closes. Another program that will suffer if the museum closes is our Master Naturalist program's training and volunteer opportunities. Over the years our Master Gardeners have done volunteer work there in the native American gardens and at various educational events. No place else can duplicate these public education opportunities.

Our local communities will also be severely impacted if Dickson Mounds closes. This facility is used for much more than museum visitors. The local people use it for meetings, concerts, education, day and night youth camps, festivals, picnics, and so much more. We have lost so much in our struggling rural area over my 50+years. I am deeply saddened that we might lose this too. In recent years, our communities have been attempting to revitalize using tourism as part of community & economic development efforts. We are starting to see some results from those efforts. The museum is a key part of tourism here, and its loss will greatly impact these efforts.

Personally, the museum has enriched my life in ways I cannot explain in a short email. My community service efforts at the museum include Eagle Day Events, Emiquon Corp of Discovery activities and exhibits, monthly coffeehouse music nights, and local school art shows. We often use the picnic grounds for family outings, and the museum is usually a destination for out-of-town guests.

When my children were small we took advantage of the many programs offered for kids. Because of this, my son Tyler is now studying to be an archaeologist at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. The museum staff have been mentoring him and he has helped with some research efforts this summer.

On a larger scale, the state museum system in Illinois houses much of our regional and state history. It also contains the database needed when doing infrastructure changes.

These few examples clearly explain why I adamantly oppose closing the Illinois State Museum system. For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rhonda Ferree

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a member of the public, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Taylor.

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a member of the public, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Madeleine O'Rourke

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a student, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Mackenzie Costanzo

To the CGFA,

I am an environmental science Master's student at the University of Illinois Chicago and I am writing to implore you not to close the Illinois State Museum System.

As a life-long Illinois resident I find a great deal of value in the museum system. Small museums such as these offer residents and tourists alike the chance to understand the nature and history of their surroundings. This may seem small, but offering free educational services in any form to communities, especially on the small scale, is empowering and allows residents to feel connected to their environment. These connections are essentially the roots of a community, helping people take pride and ownership of where they live. This leads to an increase in personal stewardship, decreasing clean-up and policing costs in the future, and allowing communities to become strong and self-sufficient.

Additionally, museum such as these helped me to feel more connected to the nature of Southern Illinois when I was a child, fostering my eventual career in the Geo-sciences.

In closing, the defunding of the Illinois State Museum System severs community roots and further grows economic disparities within our state, both the disparity between the rich and the poor, and the disparity between our government and the people that count on it.

Respectfully,

Joey Pasterski

I am writing in support of the Illinois State Museum. I am a PhD student and an adjunct researcher in the Zoology Department of the Research and Collections Center (RCC). I am also a Sangamon County resident and Illinois tax payer. My research area is in central Illinois and focuses on invertebrate diversity in an agricultural landscape. Dr. Tim Cashett is my local advisor and Dr. Meredith Mahoney, (both curators at the RCC) is a colleague who assists me in my research. With their assistance, I have completed 5 research studies and am in the process of publishing the results. I have long term study underway which is measuring the impact of a mid-summer wildfire on invertebrate assemblages. I use the museum library resources and the invertebrate collections to identify invertebrates found in agricultural edges.

Without these critical resources my research would not be possible. Ultimately this research will help the state of Illinois take advantage of the vast linear areas surrounding active agricultural fields. These areas can be enhanced with minimal effort and money and utilized to improve biodiversity. Invertebrate research is essential with a global decline in pollinators necessary for our agricultural system. And agriculture is vital for food production for the citizens of Illinois.

I respectfully urge that the Illinois State Museum and Research and Collections Center remain open. The research facilities provided by the RCC cannot be duplicated and are necessary for the future of the citizens of Illinois.

Tracy Evans

Adjunct Researcher

Research and Collection Center, Illinois State Museum

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a student, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Yannik T. Dwyer

I am opposed to closing the Illinois State Museum system. It is the repository of the history of the State of Illinois and it shares that history with the people of Illinois.

- The Illinois State Museum protects and preserves the history of Illinois for the people of Illinois. The 13.5 million objects that the Illinois State Museum researches and preserves help to teach our children and our people about the natural and cultural history of our state. This accredited and respected museum provides educators, researchers, and curators an opportunity to serve the people of Illinois with traveling exhibits that reach into five different regions of the state. This gives Illinois residents access to quality learning. The people of Illinois have paid for this institution to protect, preserve and share Illinois history.
- The Illinois State Museum System has been able to offer professional quality, changing exhibits, traveling exhibits, scholars, curators and staff that support five museum locations open to the public, and the Collections & Research Center while staying within a strict budget of \$6.3m.
- If the museum system is closed then 138 years of work documenting and preserving our heritage will be unattainable. The Director and experts who work on these irreplaceable collections and bring them to life will no longer be available – many of these scholars are internationally recognized for knowledge in their field. \$2.m in grants written by the scholars will disappear. Law suits could be the result of not fulfilling federal and/or state regulations. If the museum system closes, the collections will deteriorate with no one able to detect or correct the deterioration. There will be no researchers who understand the objects in the collections and the important of the objects therein. Curators who have created fabulous exhibits with background research will be gone. There will be no scholars available to answer questions about the museum’s research on climate change, fly-ways, wet lands, Native Americans, animals, mastodons, birds, plants, the Civil War, art or history in Illinois. Residents, students, teachers and scholars who want to access Illinois’ natural and cultural history will be turned away. There will be no traveling exhibits to stimulate people’s minds. There will no longer be communication with Illinois artists, artisans and donors. Visitor dollars spent by thousands of visitors in the regions of each ISM facility will disappear. The economic and educational loss to Illinois communities will be noticeable.
- The accredited and respected Illinois State Museum must remain open not just to serve people today but to serve future generations as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Rosemary Winters
Illinois State Museum Board of Directors

July 8, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply troubled by the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national, and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. The whole system is nationally accredited by the American Alliance of Museums; only about 5% of U.S. museums are accredited. Accreditation is a seal of approval that the museum excels as it fulfills its multifaceted mission and follows national standards and best practices in research, collections, exhibitions, educational programming, and management of the institution. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. I would also urge consideration of the likelihood that, from a purely financial standpoint, closing the museum would almost certainly result in the loss of significantly more museum-related visitation revenue than the would be gained in savings. Please consider the magnitude of the benefits and societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and the United States.

Sincerely,

Bruce B. Huckell
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

CC:

The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate
The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives
The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives
Tim Nuding, Director, Governor's Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate
Wayne Rosenthal, Director, Department of Natural Resources
Aaron Winters, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Office of the Governor
Mike Zolnierowicz, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

To the Members of the Commission,

When I first heard of the possibility of closing the Illinois State Museum system, I shrugged it off as political posturing, and that our government would not carry out a decision so detrimental to the citizens of the State of Illinois. Please make the right decision and DO NOT close the Illinois Museums!

I live in Macomb, Illinois and grew up in Fulton County, Illinois. Dickson Mounds Museum and the Illinois State Museum in Springfield are a part of our family's life. We have enjoyed countless family outings, exhibitions, field trips, music events, art exhibits, archeological lectures, artifact identification day, and even Tot Time with nieces and nephews.

My father John W. Cooper loved Dickson Mounds. Not just for its collections and exhibits, but for the community it fosters. He and my grandfather Charles W. Cooper knew Dr. Dickson and were themselves amateur archeologists. Dad attended every event that Dickson Mounds offered. When Dad passed away, our family knew there was a way to let his legacy continue on – by donating his substantial artifact collection to the Illinois State Museum at Dickson Mounds, where it is currently on display. Not only is this collection of interest to the public, but it has significant research and educational value as it is a well-documented collection.

Is there a benchmark anywhere in the nation that indicates closing a state museum system is a wise decision? I think not. In looking at the top ten states in terms of economic performance, all promote vibrant museum systems. From a financial standpoint alone, closing the Illinois State Museum does not make good business sense. This can be measured relatively easily in terms of an economic impact study. What cannot be easily measured however, is the losses in terms of history, education, culture, community and heritage that the Illinois State Museum currently provides to the citizens of Illinois.

The only conclusion left is that the Illinois State Museum is a political pawn to advance the Governor's "Turnaround" agenda. While I understand that change is needed for our State, please don't let the Museum be sacrificed for political reasons!

Sincerely,

Mary Margaret Harris
Macomb, Illinois

One of the best things about the State of Illinois is its museum. The ice age animals and the glaciers of Illinois are a fascinating part of the State.
Please keep a good thing going.

Ken Pierce

To the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability: I am opposed to the closure of the Illinois State Museum facilities, for many reasons. The museum that I am most familiar with, and support with a membership, is the facility in Springfield. As a family, we visited the museum with our sons, from their young ages through adulthood, and it is the go-to place for out-of-town visitors to our home. I also visit the museum several times a year, to view new and changing exhibits, listen to musical and lecture opportunities, or visit the gift shop to purchase Illinois artisan products. We have also visited the facility on 11th street and received valuable information about personal artifacts from the research staff and educators there. The experiences with the museum and museum staff have always been excellent! The fact that there is no entrance admission to the museum makes it a valuable community resource for individuals and families who cannot afford the pricey admissions of other local attractions. The displays and exhibits are such high-quality - I am certain that the combined knowledge, along with dedication, of the all the employees is what makes the museum such an awesome facility. Closing the museum facilities across the state makes no sense at all. The museums bring the tourist dollars to the cities where they are located. The potential loss of the museum exhibits and collections, along with the national accreditation and internationally respected staff, is too valuable to toy with. I urge the Commission to reconsider the proposal to shutter the museums, and work to find less damaging ways to trim the state budget. It wasn't the state museum facilities that were stealing from the funds that were misappropriated, over a period of many years. It should not be the museum facilities that pay the dreadful price of closure.

Ann Hughes
7442 Rolling Oaks Drive
Riverton IL 62561 217-629-8881

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a biomedical illustrator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Johnston

Commissioners:

I find it hard to believe that I am having to write this letter, that the closure of the Illinois State Museum is even being considered. It's as if the world has completely lost perspective on what is important, what nurtures our spirits, what develops our intellect, what provides the foundation society needs to ensure our progress. I implore the Committee to save the Illinois State Museum from being closed by Governor Rauner.

The museum meant a great deal to my family, and I feel that our experience serves as an example of the impact this facility can have on any child that has the good fortune to explore the exhibits or enjoy the programs offered there.

We were a family of eight, living on the north side of Springfield. Both my parents worked; for the bulk of their careers, my father an instructor at Allis Chalmers, my mother in the student financial aid department at Sangamon State. It was hard for them to make ends meet, so save for the occasional family car and camping trip, we didn't get to travel too far from home. But, my parents got us out of the house many weekends to explore what central Illinois had to offer. The Illinois State Museum was one of our regular destinations.

My earliest memories of the museum include seeing movies about nature and marveling at the life sized animals in the dioramas and the intermix of species in those dioramas. Seeing them as an adult takes me back to those more innocent days when life was full of surprises and mystery, and learning was done by accident as we were having fun.

My older brother became interested in snakes at some point in our childhood. My father encouraged this interest and would take us snake "hunting" now and then. I mention this because this interest led to my brother forming a friendship with one of the scientist at the museum. The mentoring he received through the museum helped him realize that he could have a career in the natural sciences. He went on to earn a master's degree in Zoology, and now works for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as a Fisheries Biologist, helping to keep our lakes healthy for nature, sport and pleasure.

All of our family has a sincere appreciation for history, nature, and the animal kingdom that I don't think would have been so well rooted had it not been for the museum.

It would be a shame if the only educational institutions in our state were all in Chicago, a city that might as well be on another continent as far as many families in central and southern Illinois are concerned.

Please keep the museum open! Don't let want of creativity and short sightedness do irreparable damage to this fine institution and all it stands for both practically and philosophically.

Sincerely,

Ana-Jo Mounce
216 Sawgrass Drive #2
Chatham IL 62629
312-719-3562

Members of the Commission:

I urge the commission to oppose the closure of the Illinois State Museum.

The Illinois State Museum is an invaluable resource both in terms of internationally recognized research and tourism. As you must know by now, closure of the museum would, in effect, be “cutting off the nose to spite the face”, an irrational and destructive act and one that would result in greater financial loss than gain for Illinois.

The loss extends beyond the financial toll, however, and will leave a legacy of failure. Failure to the state and its citizens, and to all those who engage in, benefit from, or collaborate in the research the museum generates. The Illinois State Museum's educational programs are some of the finest the state has to offer, and their online educational offerings are a trusted resource used by both the students and educators. The ability of the museum to preserve and care for the vast collections that represent the pre-history, history, art, and culture of Illinois is well recognized. All of these factors and more contribute to its being one of the few accredited museums in the nation.

I write this from the perspective of one who engaged in research at the museum for over 25 years. While there, I collaborated with scientists from different states and countries who were attracted to the museum because of its competent and innovative research staff. Much valuable and well respected research came of these efforts, all of which is published in peer reviewed journals. At present, one of the ongoing research projects at the Research and Collections Center has over twenty collaborators from various research institutions world wide.

The Illinois State Museum has traditionally offered high quality programs and online content to both students and educators. The strength of many of these endeavors arises from the participation of curators from multiple disciplines. Programs and materials are known for their depth and quality of the information. Examples include: The Scientific Literacy Workshop in the early 1990s offered a week-long series of lectures and field trips for science teachers in Illinois and the Museum Tech Academy program, which gave 6th - 9^h grade students hands on experience in science and technology and exposed them to career and college opportunities over a two year period. Programs such as these make a lasting impact on young lives. In addition, the museum has hosted numerous graduate level students who have gone on to have productive careers in research.

The loss of the Illinois State Museum is much greater than that which is tallied in dollars and cents. It is a loss of the things that make our lives rich, even in times of financial crisis; art, culture, and the ability to search for answers to some of the most fundamental questions about who we are and where we are headed.

Sincerely,
Pietra Gardetto Mueller

please register this as my opposition to closing the Illinois State Museum system to the public. I will attend the public hearing on Monday.

Doug Stapleton
Chicago IL

Dear Commissioners,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). As a Professor of History at Illinois College in Jacksonville, I depend on the ISM as a site for teaching and student internship opportunities. In my seven years as a member of the faculty, I have taken students to the museum at least once a year for teaching purposes. The museum staff is consistently cooperative with these field trips and they are very welcoming to my students. I have also supervised numerous student internships through the IC Explorer Program, which provide our students with professional training and a definite edge in a competitive job market. When working with interns, the ISM staff are absolutely amazing in providing real world experiences and mentoring young people. These interns do not simply file papers or make coffee. They handle museum collections, build websites, create educational programs, design marketing campaigns, organize archival collections, and work as librarians, to name only a few of the experiences I've personally observed. These are *life-changing* internships for our students as they consider professional paths. These internships draw students to Illinois College, and often, keep our young people in Illinois when they see the opportunities that are available.

As a historian of Midwestern agricultural history, I can say that the collections at the ISM and the pioneering work of Robert Warren with the Audio-Video Barn has been indispensable in my own scholarly work.

Finally, it goes without saying that the collections at the ISM are incredibly valuable in documenting the human and natural history of our state. To close this museum would be to withhold from the people of Illinois an important public resource.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jenny Barker-Devine, Associate Professor of History, Illinois College

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a member of the science loving public, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Brandon Cackowski-Schnell

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a member of the public, I am deeply concerned over the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is internationally recognized with a distinguished reputation for scientific excellence and reliable curation of scientific, cultural, and historical objects of state, national, and global importance.

The ISM System has a strong track record of public outreach and education, including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. In 2014 alone, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped. Closure of the ISM would be a major loss to both citizens of Illinois and visitors alike. Museums are valuable institutions which benefit many people in the form of education and of preservation of history. Museums help inspire wonder in both children and adults alike driving them to learn and equipping them for success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by the ISM museum system and its benefits to the citizens of Illinois. The closure of any Illinois museum would be a major loss to the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Bryce Fellows

Dear Commission members,

While I understand the fiscal situation of the state, I would like to offer the following reasons why closing state museums is not an economically wise move.

*The museums are drivers of tourism

*The museums are employers--and the people who are typically employed in cultural institutions are highly educated and creative: the sort of people who drive the new economy.

* Museum work is are also not typically highly paid. This means two things: 1)the amount saved on staffing would not be large, and 2) although the amount saved would not be large, the effect on the larger economy would be significant. This is because--since the salaries are not huge-- the majority of the pay of museum employees is put right back into circulation throughout the economy.

*Furthermore, many of these workers pursued courses of study that brought them to Illinois to begin with, due to interest in our museums, cultural institutions, colleges and universities.

In other words, Illinois Museums are a part of an economic and cultural ecosystem that is productive beyond its size, and generates tourist dollars and brings people moving to Illinois.

Finally, quality of life is one of the reasons I came here, and stay here. Museums and the educated, interesting people who work in them is part of that quality.

Thank you
Rebecca Keller
306 so Oak Park ave
Oak Park, IL
60320

To whom it may concern:

The Illinois State Museum has provided a year-round educational outlet for generations of families! I grew up in Springfield and have fond memories of visiting the museum and attending the Summer Film Series when I was a child. Years later, when I became a mom, the ISM became a regular place to visit with my two daughters. We have enjoyed free Super Saturday events, the launch of the PLAY Museum, overnight sleep-ins, birthday parties and summer camps. Their educational programming is creative, consistent and varied to keep visitors near and far engaged in our facility! Please support keeping the doors open at the ISM for years to come.

Check out a few of our reader comments on SpringfieldMoms.org here and numerous that have commented on our facebook page.

<http://springfieldmoms.org/submit-your-comments-about-the-illinois-state-museum-closing/>

1. *Rachel Nichols* says:

June 28, 2015 at 4:41 pm ([Edit](#))

Our 3 children love the state museum. Only living under 2 miles from it we have even walked there. They love the book cubbys to read in and going camping in the red jeep. As Springfield is lacking in things for young children it would be very disappointing to lose a part of education and entertainment for the youth.



2. *Shannon Casper* says:

July 3, 2015 at 11:06 am ([Edit](#))

We have been going to the State Museum since I was a little girl. I am now 25 and have my own two children that I take there. They love it is something entertaining for them to do, we don't need to lose anymore of the few things in Springfield for our kiddos.

Kim M. Leistner
Founder and President, Springfieldmoms.org

To those it may concern,

My name is Christopher Crown and I support the Illinois State Museum. I am a junior at Illinois Wesleyan University, studying Ecology and Economics. I have been awarded several scholarships and am working on two publications currently. At this very moment, I am in Oklahoma, working as a paid researcher for a NSF project on stream restoration.

I greatly attribute my success in the world of science to my experiences at the Illinois State Museum. I gained an irreplaceable curiosity and sense of wonder from the museum that would propagate into the rest of my life as a developing scientist. I have lived in the same house for my whole life and have memories of the ISM that go back just as far. This institution is truly a pillar of learning in the Springfield community that will be sorely missed if closed.

But the scope of the ISM goes farther than that. As I grew up, enamored by the museum and the idea of learning for fun, I decided to become a docent. I went through all the training and was able to then share my passion with others as they came through the exhibits. I met people from all over the state; all appreciative of such an amazing educational and recreational resource in our state's capital.

Additionally, I spent much time in the Research and Collections center. This is where I truly knew I wanted to become a scientist. From the room full of stuffed specimens to the hallways of labs where all types of geology and archaeology and computer modelling were being studied, I knew that this center was a major part of what made science in Illinois tick.

And what does closing down the ISM say? It says that, at the end of the day, science doesn't matter. That a passion for learning, one of the few things that differentiates our species... doesn't hold up against budget cuts. Research, learning, interactive exhibits, the Tully Monster, brown bag lunch seminars, summer movie series, Giant Sloth skeletons; there is a group of future scientists that need to experience these things. It changed my life, and I want to pass on the opportunity for it to change theirs.

Christopher Crown

Good morning,

I would like to voice my support for the continued operation of the Illinois State Museum (Springfield) and ISM Dickson Mounds (Lewistown). I believe their loss would be incalculable.

Wm Cook
Macomb, IL

Committee Members:

The proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum has disturbing implications and potentially devastating ramifications for one of the premier state museum systems in the United States, including its world renowned natural history and cultural collections, its internationally renowned professional staff, its award winning public exhibition programs, and its education venues that serve over 387,000 visitors per year. Among the visitors are 40,000 Illinois school children from throughout the state, including 2300 K–12 teachers who take advantage of the museum’s educational venues.

The Illinois State Museum was founded during the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War (1877) and today ranks as one of the foremost state museum programs in the United States. It was one of the first museums accredited in the United States and has been a model for other state museums around the nation. It was housed in various venues until 1963 when a facility was built in the Capitol Complex, which was recently named after former U.S. Senator Alan J. Dixon. During the closing decades of the last century the museum opened facilities in Chicago, Lewistown, Lockport, and Whittington. The former Department of Revenue facility on Ash Street in Springfield now serves as the Museum’s environmentally-controlled Research and Collections Center where the institution’s 13.5 million artifacts and specimens are curated. The Illinois State Museum is to Illinois, what the Smithsonian Institution is to the nation.

With a broad statutory mandate to focus on the land, life, people, and art of Illinois, the Museum touches the lives of a great diversity of citizens and visitors, varying in age, ethnicity, education, and interests. The variety of collections that tell the story of Illinois and the curatorial staff that interpret these collections are the resources that attract people to the Museum. The Museum is known nationally and internationally for some of its uniquely important science collections, priceless specimens that attract visiting scholars from around the nation and the world. Contrast this with the Mary Ann MacLean Play Museum, the Museum’s early childhood learning center, and one can visualize the diverse audiences served by the Museum.

There are numerous cooperative agreements and contracts that the museum has promulgated over the years, arrangements where closure will affect other organizations along with the Museum. These include Native American tribes, federal agencies, scientific organizations, and not-for-profit groups. Furthermore, innumerable Illinois families have entered into trust agreements with the Museum to utilize and care for in perpetuity priceless collections and family heirlooms that they have entrusted to the state. Donations are carefully screened, with only objects of museum quality accepted that will be beneficial to the citizens of Illinois. After all, the collections of the Illinois State Museum belong to the people of Illinois.

An announced closure of the Illinois State Museum will have a chilling effect on an institution that is well respected and one that touches the lives of hundreds of thousands of people throughout Illinois and the nation. Here are some issues to consider:

- Donors of either philanthropic giving or collections will undoubtedly reconsider.

- Past donors may seek to reclaim donations.
- Environmentally sensitive collections will need trained curatorial care, otherwise deterioration will commence.
- Highly trained museum staff members with national reputations will seek employment elsewhere, an incalculable loss to Illinois.
- Loans of objects and collections to other institutions will have to be recalled and objects on loan to the Illinois State Museum will have to be returned.
- Standing curatorial agreements with federal, state, and private not-for-profit organizations, and Native American nations will have to be resolved.

These points to consider are only a sampling of the many issues that an institution with a 138 year history will have to deal with prior to potential closure. I should point out that I spent 38 years in Springfield, 29 as director of the Illinois State Museum. Upon retirement, I moved into a higher education position as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Missouri. My museum experience over the years has given me some insights that I thought would be useful in your deliberations.

I urge you to consider alternatives to closing the Illinois State Museum. The institution serves a wide audience, attracts tourism where it more than pays for itself with dollars it generates to the local economies, and is such a miniscule part of the overall Illinois budget. The Illinois State Museum is the front door of the Capitol Complex, is considered one of the premier state museums, and is an asset to Illinois that it should not lose.

The Illinois State Museum should remain open.

R. Bruce McMillan,
Adjunct Professor of Anthropology
University of Missouri

The Illinois State Museum has been a fixture of the Springfield community for my entire life. It's a shame that Governor Rauner would even consider closing such an important cultural and educational institution.

Rauner has given little to no thought about how this would affect the community long-term. The museum facilities bring in tourism dollars, create jobs, and have an unmeasurable educational and emotional impact that reaches far beyond the Illinois border. Closing the museums will not significantly help the budget problem and is an ineffective solution to a much larger issue.

Not only does Rauner continue to tarnish the reputation of Illinois politics, he also has tainted the reputation of Illinois museums. The closure of a museum facility is not just a temporary, quick fix. If closed, the museum system would likely never re-open. The museum is 138 year old institution that protects Illinois' heritage, provides a valuable educational and economic resource, and serves children, families and teachers from all over the state and I strongly urge Rauner to reconsider this unconscionable decision.

Dorothy Witter

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a student and resident of Illinois, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Meaghan K. Davey

The Illinois State Museum has been a vital to the preservation and presentation of Illinois history since 1877. Over the last 138 years, it has grown into one of the major state museums in the country.

The Illinois State Museum maintains collections of art, history, anthropology, and natural history which are critical resources to its education, research, publication, and exhibition programs. The geographical focus is the Midwestern U.S. with an emphasis on Illinois. The significance of the biological and geological collections resulted in the election of the Museum to membership in the Association of Systematics Collections in the mid-1970s.

Anthropology/Archaeology

The Museum's anthropology collection consists of more than 8 million archaeological specimens and ethnographic objects, and is among the most extensive in the United States.

Fine and Decorative Arts

The Museum's collection of fine arts documents the progression and history of art in Illinois. It is the only such public collection in Illinois. The decorative arts collections contain more than 14,000 aesthetic and historical objects that enhance our understanding of the quality of life in Illinois.

Botany

The ISM botanical collections include more than 111,000 botanical specimens that are housed in the herbarium, which has one of the largest collections of Illinois flora in the state.

Geology

Over 200,000 specimens are in the geology collections, including 60 type and figured invertebrates, 6 fish types, and over 600 type and figured plant fossils.

History

The ISM history collections include interdisciplinary collections that cut across the Museum's departments of art, anthropology, library and archives, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and natural sciences.

Library and Archives

The Museum rich and diverse library collection contains more than 15,000 monographs and 800 serials. Additional materials include rare books, archives and manuscript collections.

Zoology

The zoology collections contain over 140,000 specimens representing mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, and mollusks.

Illinois State Museum researchers investigate the climate, landforms, plants, animals, and human cultures of the Midwestern United States with a special emphasis on Illinois. Research illuminates long-term changes in natural environments and human societies and provides interdisciplinary perspectives of the rich natural and cultural history of the state.

The Illinois State Museum is vital to serving as an educational tool for children and families in Illinois to bring the history of Illinois to life and remind us of our state's long term history, cultural history, arts and sciences. The Illinois State Museum is also a major tourist attraction and contributes to the state's economy with tourism dollars.

The Illinois State Museum employs around 100 people at 7 locations throughout Illinois.

If you close the Illinois State Museum, it will negatively impact:

1. The available educational opportunities and facilities in Illinois
2. The cultural, art, and historical preservation of Illinois history
3. The tourism dollars spent in Illinois and the ability to attract travelers and tourists from other states to Illinois
4. The employment of 100 persons which will seek employment at other like facilities and probably in another state
5. The facilities are located from Chicago to Rend Lake. Closure will effect the entire state of Illinois, not just Springfield.

I believe these are all factors that must be considered and I oppose closure of the Illinois State Museum or any of its facilities.

Joe Bartley
34 Ivy Hill
Riverton, IL 62561

I write this in opposition to the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum, one of the most respected institutions in the State of Illinois, the national museum community, and the international scientific community. It has served the people of Illinois for 138 years through Democratic and Republican controlled executive and legislative branches, always maintaining a level of professionalism unequaled by state-sponsored institutions and programs.

It has been my privilege for nearly 50 years to choose the Illinois State Museum as an institution worthy of my time, energy, and financial support. My husband and I have collected museum quality Illinois art and artisan objects for many years with the intention of eventually contributing these to the extensive world- renowned collections housed at the museum for the people of Illinois to enjoy as we have. It is totally unthinkable that this gem sitting at the door of the Capitol Complex, and its satellite campuses, would be closed to the multitude of Illinois citizens that have grown, and are growing up, with this unique educational resource offered by the great State of Illinois.

As an educator, I realize that people learn in many different ways. Museums have a special niche in the educational community. They offer life-long learning experiences for all who enter their doors. To think that the people of Illinois, as well as the national and international visitors who come to this fine institution each year, would no longer have the educational and research opportunities afforded by visiting the Illinois State Museum is a very sad thought indeed.

I urge you to support the continuation of the Illinois State Museum.

Virginia McMillan

Educational Consultant

Closing the Illinois State Museum, the official museum of the natural history of the state of Illinois, would be an uneducated decision with huge negative impact. This museum serves all the citizens of Illinois at the small cost of 68 employees while receiving almost 700,000 visitors each year. An incredible value, priceless education, necessary displays of cultural history; all of immeasurable importance to all of the citizens of Illinois and visitors from around the world. It is of the highest necessity to keep this facility open and accessible. Even if its upkeep required twice as much, it would still bring in more rewards than it expends. This is what we pay the government for: serving citizens.

Gale Myers

5611 Old Jacksonville Rd
Springfield, IL 62711
217-341-5904
PrarieGM@gmail.com

I would like to add my voice to the others who are very upset and sad that there is even the slightest possibility of the Illinois State Museum might close.

My daughter and I were both spent endless hours there, learning about our state, and the diverse and wonderful culture that it supports.

The thought of others not having that as a resort to spend time educating ourselves and our families is devastating.

I really thought this was a bad joke at first. What kind of capitol city does not have a state museum to teach it's children important information about the history and culture of it's population? That is unheard of. It's down right embarrassing.

Please allow future generations to have access to the state's history, in a beautiful and child friendly environment.

Thank you,
Cathy Muir

The McHenry County Historical Society is fortunate to be able to function as a nonprofit entity without being dependent on public funding, but it remains a challenge. How can Illinois expect citizens to continue to support and advocate for history if our leaders are not willing to do so? Worse, it is a bad idea for a number of reasons. Among them:

- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be laid off, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.

All of this reminds me of a similar ploy frequently employed by school boards. Either pass our referendum or we will cut athletics. The athletic budgets typically amount to a drop in the bucket, but the idea is to raise the profile and punish the public. But who it hurts most are the kids. Please don't allow the politicians to play politics with the cultural heritage of our state. Stop the madness. Save the museum.

Sincerely,
Kurt Begalka
Administrator, McHenry County Historical Society

The supposed savings from closure of the Illinois State Museum as a result of the budget impasse would result in the loss of much more than jobs or use of a building. For 138 years the State Museum has been the guardian of our natural and cultural heritage and has introduced millions of visitors to the land, life people, and art of this great state. It is a living, breathing organism with highly educated and internationally respected staff, ongoing contracts, grants, programs, lectures, and circulating exhibits that would be completely disrupted or terminated at great educational and economic loss to our city and to the state. The museum has been exemplary in its financial management and should not be a pawn in the budgetary wars.

Dr. Richard T. McDaniel

I am typical of the many donors who might be considering the gift of a personal or family artifact to the State Museum for display and preservation.

Because it never occurred to me that the Illinois State Museum would ever be closed, I recently donated a historically furnished ten room handmade doll house. The donation was made on behalf of the Illinois family that built and furnished the house. They were proud to know that this old and cherished family item would be in such a distinguished Museum. The Museum was very anxious to have this as part of their collection. Because of the threat to close the Museum, I have not signed the Deed of Gift which would finalize the arrangement. I am waiting and hoping that the Governor will reconsider this decision before I make my decision.

I am sure there are many other potential donors and funders like me who are hesitant now to donate; and important items of Illinois history are at risk of being forever lost to the public. Please don't let this happen. I am asking that you oppose the closing of all of the Illinois Museums.

Nicky Stratton

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a librarian that's worked in museus and parent/grandparent living in Illinois, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Jill Postma

Please do not close the Illinois State Museum. My family made countless trips to the Springfield Museum when our son was young, and I very much appreciated all the educational exhibits and special events offered free of charge at both the Springfield and the Dickson Mounds museum sites. To this day, the Museum's gift shop is still my first choice when shopping for unique gifts.

As an archaeobotanical researcher, consulted through the Museum Society by numerous Midwest institutions, I have made extensive use of the Illinois State Museum's Research and Collections Center samples of seeds and wood specimens, the Cutler-Blake archaeological plants assemblage, the superb science library, archived historical records, and, occasionally, the Museum herbarium, which contains plant specimens that are themselves historical artifacts or regionally significant, as in the case of the Rollo Rexroat specimen donations.

My most frequently used Museum resources, however, are the Museum's digital renderings of historical and archaeological site file data. The nightly updates of new sites' information the Museum sends out is vital to the consulting work I do for planners and developers throughout the state. The digitizing of cemetery locations from historic plats is also ongoing at the ISM-RCC, a project whose completion I think will be widely appreciated by amateur and professional genealogists, historians, and landowners who participate in land-management plans through the IDNR and USDA-NRCS.

My family, my colleagues throughout the Midwest, and my artisan friends have all benefited from their visits and associations with the Illinois State Museum, the Museum's Research and Collection Center, as well as the Dickson Mounds, Chicago Galley, Lockport Galley, and Southern Illinois Art and Artisan's Center. Please do not close these unique cultural resources.

Marjorie H.B. Schroeder

Rochester, IL

I am writing to express my opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum. State funded museums are a crucial part of a civilized society and I believe they serve the public good. They are an investment in the public knowledge and in the intellectual life and identity of the populace. As a government you have an obligation to serve the public and I believe there are better solutions available if revenue must be raised.

Dr. John Pippen

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an artist, and art teacher, and have found visits to the Springfield Museum and The Chicago Illinois state Museum enriching and invaluable.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

It is wasteful to close a museum. To have the doors closed entirely to the public is extremely wasteful of the resources that have been built up over time. You know the numbers of the people who spend the money in Springfield to see the historical and cultural sites. 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. Student field trips to see Springfield, and participate in a mock government program, are invaluable. Seeing the ISM helps them to form questions about the states past. When students are questioning that means they are looking for answers and found the answers at the ISM.

Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects, which are governed by written agreements and federal law.

The professional staff - experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to PHD's, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.

Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

I realize that the state is trying to save money and has a large budget deficit...but closing an asset to the state is NOT the solution. Please do not close this institution. This is not a positive solution. You can do better.

Victoria Fuller
1949 W. Wabansia Ave.,
Chicago, IL

Many people from around Illinois have written letters describing the various aspects of the Illinois State Museum – from exhibits to public programs to educational opportunities to the significance of the collections and so on – but I would like to mention something additional. The scientific staff of the museum not only curate and add to collections, participate in educational programs and respond to questions from the public, they also do significant research.

The scientists on the museum staff, all of which have Ph.D.s, have done research on many aspects of Illinois natural history and history. All have attended scientific meetings all over the country, presenting papers on their findings. Most, including myself, travelled to international meetings all over the world, at our own expense, and shared the results of our research. These curators have international reputations and bring great prestige to the state of Illinois. This will not be easily regained if the State Museum is closed.

Those not familiar with collections of the State Museum – animals, plants, rocks, minerals and fossils, archeological artifacts, etc – seem to assume the State could simply lock the museum doors and post a guard and the collections will somehow survive intact. They will not. They must be constantly monitored to spot mildew, mold, insect damage, decay and other potential problems before serious damage occurs. This cannot be done by some under paid flunky, some political hack. I hope those hoping to close the museum and defund it to save more than a drop in the bucket will see the folly in that.

One thing that really dismays me is that neither the governor nor the vast majority of legislators has ever set foot inside the State Museum. They have no idea of the treasures housed there, no idea of the engaging exhibits and programs that exist within the museum. They have never seen the awe and excitement on a visitor's face, especially the face of a child.

Neither the governor nor the legislators has ever availed themselves of the opportunities to visit the museum that lies just across the parking lot from the capitol building. Apparently Gov. Rauner, Senate President John Cullerton, Speaker Madigan and their wealthy Chicago friends have so many great museums in Chicago they have no interest in anything in "southern Illinois," i.e., south of Interstate 80. And they apparently have no concern for anyone living south of Chicago. It is unfortunate that the leaders of Illinois display so little interest in or concern for so many residents of Illinois.

It is bad enough to see the state's political leaders serious about closing one of the state's important resources, but to see them doing so out of ignorance is certainly disheartening at best. I hope wiser heads will prevail and the Illinois State Museum will not be closed, even briefly.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Leary
Emeritus Curator of Geology
Dear Colleagues

Dear Colleagues

I write to protest even the thought of closing the Illinois State Museums, with their incredible collections of fossils and other materials that are seen by hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. I understand the problem of the deficit but this is not a way to correct it. These museums are as important to the state's reputation as a civilized place, as much as its universities, symphonies, natural parks and libraries. Do not close them.

Robert Haselkorn
Distinguished Service Professor of Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology
The University of Chicago

member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society

Hello,

I am writing to urge you not to close the Illinois State Museums. The negative economic impact (especially in Springfield, which depends heavily on tourism) and the subsequent loss of accreditation that will come with closure far outweigh any short term budgetary gains. In addition, the State Museums present an irreplaceable resource for hand-on learning about our natural and geological heritage.

Please consider this email as my formal written statement.

Thank You,

Karen Broquet
871 South Lincoln
Springfield, IL

Several options to be explored prior to closing the museum:

- Consider charging admission to the museum.
- Consider shortened hours and fewer days of operation, Tuesday through Saturday.
- Consider shortened hours 10:00 to 3:00 PM

Anne Midden

July 9, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM

- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

NUMBERS

- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.

Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors Dickson Mounds in Lewistown: 50,000 visitors Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors Southern Illinois Art Gallery near Sesser: 18,000 visitors Springfield: 200,000 visitors

- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.
Thank you for your consideration.

Margaret Buchen

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

I am an artist and educator. I have exhibited in ISM facilities in Chicago and Lakeport and I have been to several exhibitions and lectures in the Chicago and Springfield facilities. The ISM facilities provide excellent resources for exhibiting, viewing and preserving works of art in the State of Illinois - works which might otherwise not be accessible to its citizens and visitors to the state. Thus it has considerable value for education and for cultural generation.

The ISM is accredited by a national accreditation board which recognizes the high quality of its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals. Losing this accreditation means that it could take years to get it back.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Mahoney

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a citizen of the United States of America and a frequent visitor of Illinois. My parents grew up in Springfield, IL and I value the collections at the ISM for what they say about the state my parents grew up in as well as their historical and otherwise educational value. I ask that you not close the museum.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.

The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jones

July 9, 2015

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter speaks to the closing of the Illinois State Museum as a major loss to the State of Illinois and a blow to a dedicated Museum scientific staff. As a long-resident citizen-scientist of this State I am registering a strong protest against the Closing.

While the museum's closing has had a devastating impact on the general public's faith in the State of Illinois, the effect is no less devastating behind the scenes. There it may be less visible, but it is woven into the fabric of the museum's services to the public at large and to many groups that have come to rely on the museum.

The museum is more than a parade of exhibits that can be turned off and on by higher authorities. First of all, the professional staff are not passive caretakers. They have important functions to carry out museum functions that relate to the citizens of the State and visa versa. For this and related reasons the Museum has an accreditation rating from the American Alliance of Museums that is sparingly awarded. To suspend and potentially eliminate these functions would deprive the State of the advice, rescue work, and curation that the people of Illinois have come to depend upon. Depriving citizens of their natural history and cultural heritage is a shame. But to shut it away is tantamount to erasing the public's connection with the Past. As the saying goes if we don't learn from the successes and failures of the past, we are destined to repeat them with adverse effect.

Second, the Museum is the sole designated repository for the natural history and cultural heritage of the State. No other state institution has this obligation. The repository is no mere attic to stick treasures that nobody wants. The collections have been a source for well-informed interpretations of past and present-day cultural history and natural history. Archaeological, anthropological, paleobotanical and zoological collections are national treasures that are accessed regularly worldwide. The quality of the exhibits, widely available web-based material, and the printed work has proved more than ample justification for maintaining an outstanding body of professional staff. Other museums around the country have benefited from contributions of this staff that draw upon the resources of the collections. The State Museum was the envy of our neighboring institutions.

As the Illinois Association of Museums has recently stated —
“Museums are important educational assets: community anchors, places of engagement, trusted sources of knowledge and research, proven economic engines for our communities, and vital resources for our teachers and students. Museums are the repositories of our important artifacts and cultural memory. Museums play a critical role in the sharing of information, historical memory, and the preservation of important artifacts, archives, and collections.”

Third, the professional staff serve as liaison to dedicated science teachers in the many public school systems spread throughout the state. Workshops and web-based materials significantly enhance such systems in out of the way places that cannot afford to have expertise in house. In this very increasing educational role the State Museum has carved out an important niche in the teaching of science across the State. To jeopardize this outreach is to marginalize school groups across the State. The action of closing the Museum reveals the hollowness of the avowed steps to protect the budgets of public schools.

Lastly, closing the Illinois State Museum System would result in savings of less than 0.2% of the state's projected budget shortfall.

Yours sincerely,

James A. Brown
Professor emeritus

The type of Testimony you would like to give: The Illinois State Museum is dedicated to serving the people of Illinois through the exhibit of artwork and telling the story of the history of the state. The Museum is also dedicated to science and conservation practices. I have had the good fortune to see exhibits at all the museum sites, Chicago, Springfield, Lockport and Rend Lake, this since 1988. They are all fine facilities and represent the state in a favorable light. A state dedicated to celebrating the diversity of the people, the history, the ecology, and artist; past and present. The Museum is part of the fabric of the State. I respectfully ask you to retain this important cultural and economic assets to the state. Art is an important element to to the economy in Illinois. Art centers are key anchors that help to revitalize areas and neighborhoods that have suffered. The arts are a very good public investment. You should retain the museum system.

John Siblik
Director, School of Art and Design
Northern Illinois University
1425 W Lincoln Hwy
DeKalb, IL 60115-2828
815-753-7850

Dear Sirs and Madam,

Let me begin by stating that the current impasse in negotiations regarding the Illinois budget decisions dismays me greatly. Negative impacts are already being felt around our state from the apparent lack of communication and ability of our elected officials to put their personal feelings into check for the greater good of everyone in Illinois (as well as those outside of this state) who are or will be directly impacted by their lack of movement forward as a cohesive unit. The continuation of the finger-pointing and "standing their ground", instead of negotiating with each other and passing a completed, legal budget for our state is completely unacceptable. Either each one needs to do his or her job or get out, go home and let someone else do it instead.

State agencies gave their proposed budgets to the proper legal commissions back in the beginning of this year. It is widely known that Illinois' state budgets are notoriously underfunded by the very officials elected to write them. However, most times, each separate agency reporting their budget to the governor's commissions, strives to write their budgets as close to what's needed for the bare essentials to keep their agency afloat. This is the case of the Illinois State Museum. The ISM has proposed a budget of \$6.29 M to operate all 5 locations, keeping nearly 50 employees to continue the work on projects, grants, research and assistive positions. If Governor Rauner and Speaker Madigan continue their budget battles, then Gov. Rauner's proposed retaliatory cuts of \$4.8M will have the doors to the museums closed by August, sending works of art and exhibits loaned to our state back to their owners, causing grants that were allotted to ISM for new or ongoing research to go back or be unused, dropping "like a rock" any local and statewide revenues normally received (that were around \$324M in 2014) from visitors to the museums, laying off around 78,000 full time residents of Illinois (who are employed by businesses that depend on the museum's visitors and staff utilizing their services), losing not only the State Museum System's national accreditation, but ISM's highly educated, internationally respected staff of professionals as well.

Did I mention the thousands (yes, THOUSANDS) of children who are taken to the museums to get "hands-on" learning to further enhance their knowledge of our state's heritage, artisans, archaeological sites, connections to the Mississippi River, prehistoric man and numerous American Indian tribes? What about them? Should we just stop teaching them about things that are unimportant to people with the pens to sign the documents to keep these facilities open? I don't think so.

There has to be some point when Illinois elected officials learn to get along or move along. THIS is that point. While no one at this level (simple citizen) wants us to be overspending the state's money, there have to be concessions made for learning opportunities. The Governor says, "no child left behind"-then proposes huge educational cuts to our children. He says, "no new taxes" at a time when we, as a state, are extremely far behind in paying bills with money that we "thought" we "might" get. And, when we really needed to keep those taxes to help pay the past due bills,

then he decides to just cut services for the poor, for education and for the working stiff who are the ones paying all the bills already. Enough is enough.

Illinois became a state in 1818 and the Illinois State Museum began its rich history when it opened in 1877. Some folks back then thought it would be a great idea to have a museum showing the rest of the country what Illinois started as, was then and what it would continue to be all about nearly 200 years later. Today we have 5 great facilities in our state showing Illinois history through the use of art, research work, archaeology and in many other ways. When my parents were alive, they took our family to the museums yearly. They donated money when they were able to, for special funding towards new exhibits. They instilled in me a sense of honor to continue that tradition. My husband and I try to make yearly contributions in some small form to ISM because of their educational opportunities for our family, which now includes our grandchildren. ISM offered to children then and continues to do so now, things that are free to attend: events where they can play as they learn; exhibits they can not only see, but touch; speakers that will interact with them while they learn. What a wonderful time to be a little child and get to go to the museum. If the doors get closed, all this will be lost to them.

I am an Illinois citizen by birth. I vote in every election. I am tired of all of the officials trying to skirt the issues and not do their jobs. We need and deserve a balanced budget. Personally, I would like to see one that includes funding for the State of Illinois Museums to remain open at levels to keep them operational. Cutting them by \$4.8M dollars won't do it. If we continue to allow our elected officials to point at each other and complain instead of doing the jobs we elected them to do, then it is our own fault when this happens. Please assist ISM to keep their doors open by funding them at the proposed level of \$6.29M dollars.

Thank you for your time.

Most respectfully submitted,

Julie Corben RN CHEC II
ADLS,ACLS,PALS,TNCC
IMERT/RMERT Region 2 member

Work address:
ER RN at OSF Holy Family Medical Center
1000 W. Harlem Avenue
Monmouth, IL 61462

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a former Illinois State Museum Society employee (archaeologist), I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Jill Leann Coughlin

The Illinois State Museum is a vital part of the state's economic and cultural well-being, internationally recognized and an important part of the tourism economy. A small investment in our future will repay the state coffers a hundred fold in the well being it creates and sustains. Please keep the museum complex open now and for future generations.

Telling Bird Tales,

Brian "Fox" Ellis
Fox Tales International
P.O. Box 209
Bishop Hill, IL 61419

I have volunteered at the state museum for the last five years. I volunteer in the children's play museum. Closing the museum is to me like closing a portion of the school system. The kids that come in to the museum with their parents or daycare during the week are learning as they play. They have learned so much about minerals prehistoric animals and other things. The museum puts on super Saturday every month which is always about learning. This museum is visited not only by people in this state but people from other states have come in and are always pleased with their time at the museum. Please reconsider closing this educational facility.

Pam Conover

PLEASE KEEP MUSEUM OPEN FOR CHILDREN, SENIORS, ANYONE WISHING TO EDUCATE THEMSELVES IN THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE. WE NEED MORE CULTURE ACTIVITIES LIKE EUROPE TO BE BETTER EDUCATED PEOPLE. KEEP MUSEUM OPEN.

HILDE SCHERLEIN-DAUGHERTY
5418 PATRIOT DRIVE
TOLEDO, OHIO 43611

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a member of the public, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Chad Ewing

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Janelle Shane

To whomever this concerns,

I wish to express my strong objection to plans to close the Illinois State Museum. This activities of this museum are used literally worldwide, e.g. Dr Grimm's software Tilia which is the major software used to draw pollen diagrams (and thus reconstruct changes in ecosystems, environment and climate) throughout the world. Also other research into long-term environmental change performed by Dr Grimm and colleagues has worldwide significance, so closure of the museum would be felt worldwide.

Many thanks for your consideration and best regards,

Dr Maarten Blaauw
Lecturer in Chronology

School of Geography, Archaeology & Palaeoecology Queen's University
Belfast, UK

Yes, Illinois has fiscal problems. But what a sorry disappointment that our new governor is willing to attack the Arts as potential panacea. Hundreds of artists along with many hundreds of Illinois residents, of whom I am one, deplore this highhanded, low minded approach to remedy the State's deplorable fiscal situation. Civilized citizens hold the Arts in lofty esteem --hardly potential for the chopping block. Look elsewhere, Gov. Rauner, to fulfill your promise to render our state fiscally viable again. Please. Look elsewhere. You are addressing one of Illinois' and civilization's strengths when you attack the Arts and artists.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth B. Taylor
866 Pembridge Drive
Lake Forest, IL 60045

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As an archaeologist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Konwest

--

Eli Konwest
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Anthropology
Indiana University Bloomington

Governor Rauner, state legislature:

Please work together to keep the museum open so it can continue serving the citizens of Illinois and all who visit from across the country.

Thank you,
Marie Polick
Illinois Artisan

Tracy L Garrison
11637 Orange Ln
Glenarm, IL 62536

RE: Opposed to Illinois State Museums being closed.

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to the Illinois Museums being closed especially, Dickson Mounds in Lewistown and the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, Illinois. **Please file this letter as written testimony.**

I am what you would consider an amateur (local history) historian and the thought of losing the Dickson Mounds Museum and the Illinois State Museum has been an absolute nightmare for me. Dr Wiant and staff at the Dickson Mounds museum have been an absolute treasure trove of information for me and the work that they perform and their contributions to the science of archaeology has made the Illinois State Museums a state treasure and one might say a national treasure.

When the budgets get tight and the talk comes around to cutting services, the educational system has always been off limits. I don't disagree, but we should consider the museum's of Illinois as part of the educational system because that is what they are here for, to educate the public. Every time I have visited the museums I have come away with new knowledge. When we (the public) stop learning, what is left for us but apathy and death? I refuse to be apathetic in this matter.

Please keep our state museums open.

Tracy L. Garrison
Glenarm, Illinois

I am opposed to this closing. This is ridiculous. It is a great museum that is visited by thousands every year. Keep it open

JoAnn Plovich

The historic, artistic, and scientific sites within the Illinois State Museum system are community anchors and economic engines for the state of Illinois. They make cities livable and attract businesses that desire a high quality of life for their employees. In fact, museums, like the Lockport Gallery, are often the key to downtown revitalization efforts. These museums also attract tourists who spend \$36 million within Illinois at hotels, restaurants, and shops along their route. Where will that money go if the museum system is eliminated? Which of our neighboring states will receive those dollars?

Moreover, the Illinois State Museum sites supplement the state's education system by teaching over 40,000 students the lessons that they just can't get in a classroom setting. Please don't shutter this essential piece of the education ecosystem, especially now as Illinois works to bolster its schools and teachers. Museums are key to this goal.

The Illinois State Museum system is an investment in the future of our state. It's an investment that makes us competitive with and attractive to those around us. It's an investment that educates tens of thousands of our citizens. It's an investment that is working. Please keep the Illinois Museum system intact.

Thank you,

Anthony Bowman
Education Outreach Coordinator
McLean County Museum of History
200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701
309-827-0428 | www.mchistory.org

The Illinois State Museum is a critical institution for the education of the people of Illinois in state history (including prehistory) and natural history. This education is critical for both children and adults in order to understand their connection to the natural world and the importance of conservation and protection of natural resources. This is important today but absolutely critical for the future. Closing the ISM facilities would not save the state much at all. Because of legal responsibilities, including federal, state and private grants to the Museum or its scientific personnel - as well as responsibilities to maintain and protect collections - the majority of ISM activities cannot be shut down. About all that can be done is to close the doors of the exhibit facilities to the public, thus depriving children and adults of the opportunity to learn about the natural world in Illinois and the interactions between people and that world extending into prehistory. That education, as I noted before, is absolutely critical to the state's future. This proposed action is unequivocally "penny wise and pound foolish."

Fred H. Smith

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As an educator, parent, and lifelong resident of Illinois, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sarah Knutilla-Marx

History often repeats itself. With that being said how will we ever learn as a society or as individuals from our past mistakes when we're constantly erasing history. The dumbing down of future generations HAS to stop! I fear that closing this facility will only further fuel this "dumbing down of the masses" propaganda.

Amy Underwood

Please take all necessary steps to keep the ILL state museum open!

Mick Bernasek

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure 703

Dear Commission members:

I am writing to urge you not to close the Illinois State Museum System. It is important to science and science education in our state. Over a half million people including tens of thousands of school children each year visit the museums and their significant paleontology and anthropology collections. Exciting young people about science is crucial if Illinois is to remain economically strong in the future. This alone warrants the small expenditure needed to keep the system open.

Sincerely,
Melvyn Shochet
Kersten Distinguished Service Professor of Physics
University of Chicago
Member, National Academy of Sciences
Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

To Those Weighing Benefits of keeping Springfield's State Museum:

As a small child, the escalator at the State Museum was the first I'd even seen and ridden in my life. My brother and I were lucky to get to visit my father as he built the walls at this site during its initial construction. Throughout the years, this public treasure has been a source of pride for our family, recalling my father's hands-on involvement in helping Illinois to showcase important heritage.

It seems ridiculous to me now to learn mismanagement of budgetary funding would cause entertainment of closing this site. This was never a pork barrel project. It wasn't an extravagant tribute to an individual politician's legacy. It was meant to be a perpetual gift to the citizens of our once great State. The ongoing educational value for school children contained therein is enough to demand it continue to operate for future generations.

My father was proud to have belonged to the Carpenter's Union in Springfield. There's a lot of accessible history in the Illinois State Museum, and art, and science, and respect. Please don't take it away.

Carol Rauzi Wood
509 S Main St
Bend, IL. 62009
217-299-5110

Daughter of Francis M. Rauzi, deceased WWII US Navy Vet and Union Tradesman

The Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology is a statewide non-profit volunteer organization with eight regional chapters dedicated to the support and preservation of the archaeological heritage of Illinois. We have more than 550 member families around the state and country. We promote and disseminate information on Illinois archaeology through chapter meetings, a quarterly publication, and a journal.

There is no doubt that the Illinois State Museum is a highly regarded and valued asset of the State of Illinois. It provides outstanding education opportunities for the general public and is an important scientific research center for all aspects of the natural and cultural history of this state. Over the years as an organization, we have greatly benefitted from the expertise, collections, and facilities of the Illinois State Museum, as have the citizens of this state.

Our organization therefore is strongly opposed to any attempt during this current budget crisis to close the Illinois State Museum. Even a temporary closing will have long-term detrimental effects. Keep the museum open!

Board of Directors
Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology
Holly Labisky, Secretary

DEAR SIRs:

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO THE PLAN TO CLOSE THE " ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM ".

I AM , NELSON GRMAN, PRESIDENT OF " THE FRIENDS OF MOTHER JONES MUSEUM BOARD ", IN MT OLIVE, IL. WE RELY ON THE ABILITY TO WORK WITH THE STATE MUSEUM AND OTHERS, TO MAKE OUR MUSEUM AN INTERESTING AND EDUCATIONAL SITE FOR THE MANY TOURISTS WHO ALSO VISIT OUR SISTER SITE, THE " UNION MINERS CEMETERY ", THE LOCATION OF THE " MOTHER JONES GRAVESITE AND MONUMENT". THIS A " NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ".

SINCE RETIRING IN 1997, I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT TOURISM AND KNOW THAT THIS BRINGS MUCH NEEDED FUNDING INTO OUR STATE.

I, ON BEHALF OF OUR BOARD, RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THE " ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM " NOT BE CLOSED.

NELSON GRMAN

The Illinois State Museum has been an avenue for imaginative play, learning and culture for my three little boys. We are so sad at the possibility of its closure. There are few places in Springfield that provide children with a safe and engaging place to play and learn.

Cristina Frederick

The Illinois State Museum means a lot to the people of our state. Dickson Mounds which is just a few miles from where I live has been an important part of our community. It teaches the history of the life of the American Indian of our area which goes back for 12,000 years. It is one of the few archaeological museums in our nation let alone in the State of Illinois. Our family has gone to Dickson Mounds many times over the past 30 years. We have taken many visitors to Dickson Mounds from other states and other countries all were very impressed by the Museum.

The Museum also working with other groups throughout the county and surrounding area helps to raise the life and understanding of many people. I am a member of the Fulton County Art Council together with the Museum we have helped bring Art in its different forms to our Area.

The Illinois State Museum system along with the Illinois State Parks show the very soul of Illinois to the many visitors each year. One cannot put a cost on one's soul. Our Museums show who we are, how we came to be this great State, what it means to live and be part of Illinois' past, present and future. We teach our children the values of what makes us great, the Illinois State Museum system shows them examples of the lives of those who have helped our State to be all it could be. Please find the funds to help keep the Illinois State Museum system including Dickson Mounds open.

Steve Love
Canton Illinois
lovestephan@hotmail.com

My name is Rozanne Hubbard. I am an artist and gallery owner in Morton, IL. I am adamantly against the State of Illinois' plan to close our state museums. Our museum system should instead be receiving more funds to improve their displays and offerings in prospect to attract tourists to our state...which would equate to drawing more monies that we so desperately need. What other reason would anyone consider visiting Illinois...we do not have mountains, seashores or enormous amusement parks.

The news of Illinois closing these museum facilities has made our state the laughing stock of the country...once again.

The lack of vision within our state legislature is incredible.

Sincerely,
Rozanne Hubbard

Dear Commission Members:

I am a citizen of Springfield, Illinois and a parent. My son, and my family have visited the Illinois State Museum and most of its sites. We have also taken advantage of the camps, lectures, workshops, films, and art exhibitions at its main facility in Springfield, and the open houses and lectures at the Research and Collection Center, also in Springfield.

I am asking you to recommend to Governor Bruce Rauner that he not close the Illinois State Museum.

My reasons are many:

- The Illinois State Museum and its sites are a success. Last year, nearly 387,000 people visited the ISM and its sites, 1.5 million people used its myriad web resources (including its 196 free teacher's lessons that correspond with Illinois teaching standards), and 40,000 schoolchildren learned about Illinois via free visits to the museum sites.

-The Illinois State Museum and its sites are job creators and revenue producers. According to estimates from the Illinois Office of Tourism, people visiting the ISM and its sites spent nearly \$36 million in those sites' locations. Eighty-five people are employed by the museum. In some locales, like Lewiston where Dickson Mounds Museum is located, the ISM site is one of the few, if not the only, attraction to draw visitors and bring in outside revenue as a result. In addition to visitor revenue, the ISM has added \$8.9 million to its local communities through expenditures on goods and services, thereby helping to keep local jobs.

-The cost to close the museum and dismantle its collections and exhibitions would be great financially, possibly legally, and culturally. When you calculate those costs against the money saved by closing ISM sites, and the loss of local revenue from those sites, the financial savings is little. And the loss to Illinois' culture, history, education, and scientific progress are great. ISM scientists study issues including climate change, which is of great immediate importance to our state and planet.

-The ISM has an obligation by federal law to maintain the human remains of several Native American tribes. We must not break this obligation.

-The ISM has an obligation to maintain the thousands of donations that Illinois citizens have entrusted to it over its 177 years of operation, which include items of great important to those individuals and their families, including wedding dresses, furniture, and artwork.

-ISM staff are currently working on three National Science Foundation grants and helping with a National Science Foundation education grant. If the museum is closed, will we have to give those grant monies back? What would that cost us?

-Forty-three other states in this country have a state museum, more than a dozen of those states have a museum system, like Illinois', which includes several sites. This demonstrates the wide-spread belief in the importance of these facilities. It would be a huge loss to destroy what it's taken Illinois 177 years to create.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion and please recommend that the museum remain open.

Tara McClellan McAndrew

As a Professor of Anthropology at Loyola University Chicago, and as the parent of two young children born and raised in Chicago, I wish to express my [strongest possible opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum](#). I oppose this closure for three main reasons: 1) Data clearly show that this makes no financial sense given the revenues generated by the ISM; 2) the cultural ramifications (past, present, and future) of a closure would negatively impact the education of our children and visitors of the state; and 3) the state is legally obligated to protect its heritage. I am hoping that sound fiscal responsibility, solid data, and common sense will prevail in this decision.

I know of other colleagues and friends who have already provided great detail in support of my three reasons noted above, and I am not sure that more data will help at this point. Thus my main plea is simply for more common sense. Advancing education while protecting and preserving our heritage is usually a costly endeavor. Yet given the ISM's ability to generate more revenue than the cost to run it, who can possibly agree to cut back on education, decrease our responsibilities to our museum collections, AND LOSE MONEY at the same time?

Please do not let the ISM be lost as some sort of bargaining chip, supposedly to save a small fraction of 1% in the budget, when the closure of the ISM would decrease our financial revenues and cultural education.

Sincerely,
Jim Calcagno

Dr. James M. Calcagno, Professor of Anthropology
and Fellowship Office Director
Department of Anthropology
Loyola University Chicago
1032 W. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60660

Dear Governor,

I do understand politics and I do understand why you want to close the museums in Illinois. I know that "balancing the budget" is your way of promoting a hate campaign against many democrats that do not support your conservative concepts.

So instead of making jobs you are earnest in your attempt to destroy jobs. In closing the museums you lay off hundreds of people who work at those museums or who work for other businesses who supply those museums. Artists sell and show their work through those outlets and now the most productive months, the tourist summer, are gone. So much for your support of small business.

You were elected to help the people not to destroy our jobs and our way to make a living.

You believe that the museums are unnecessary and you are willing to sacrifice these educational institutions and the people who work for them for your own political gain.

Disgusting.

A voting citizen,
Eleanor Ferris

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a Museum Collections Manager I was appalled when I heard about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. Museums are core educational institutions that offer enormous benefits to the community and are bound legally and ethically to protect cultural heritage assets. Why on earth would you threaten the cultural heritage of Illinois, kill educational opportunities for the community, and lay off skilled workers for a 0.15% drop in the fiscal bucket? This poor decision shows just how much you lack as a political leader for Illinois.

The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Debra Peterson

This is in reference to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum and allied areas as Dikson Mounds which I am adamantly against. This is the history of our state and culture and is valuable for future citizens. This is not a way to raise money; use taxes on luxury services (i.e. house-cleaning, nail salons, etc.) instead. I am a retired teacher and we should not lose our heritage because of a mismanaged budget. Fix the budget, but don't take valuable educational materials away.

Thank you,
Carol Sommers

Dear Governor Rauner,

As an educator, engineering, student, and member of the public, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. As a future STEM educator, I find the possible loss of these resources very upsetting. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Tyler

--

Kaitlin Tyler
Materials Science and Engineering
PhD Candidate
University of Illinois: Urbana-Champaign

I oppose the proposal to close the Illinois State Museum system. The IL State Museum is a treasure for the citizens of the Illinois, and I cannot imagine the entire Illinois could not support a public museum system! I myself visited the wonderful exhibits of the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. I was so impressed by the great exhibits on the geological and paleontological history of the state, and I thorough enjoyed. In addition, the scientific and educational staff of the museum are instrumental in sustaining the public program in outreach.

Do not close the Illinois State Museum system!

Sincerely,

Zhe-Xi Luo, Ph.D
Professor
Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy
The University of Chicago
1027 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Sometimes we consider cutting the very things that feed our souls and nurture that element of our being that makes us human.

Museums fall into this category. They house the remnants of our culture and make sure we do not forget the lessons of the past.

Surely Illinois has the means necessary to continue supporting all our state museums.

Frances Hagemann

I am writing to oppose the closure of the Illinois State Museums. These are treasures of the state of Illinois. I have taken children and grandchildren to them and I can not get enough of them myself.

Closing these museums would be financially foolish as well, as they are engines of tourism.

Georgia Morgan

As a member of the Illinois Artisans, I have benefited greatly from their program. "The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our schoolchildren, our universities, our researchers and it plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. Teachers at my school have benefited from professional development at the museum and our students enjoy learning about our state's history through a hands-on, tangible experience. The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in our community and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. It would cause great economic harm to our community, both to lose this many local jobs and to lose the tourism dollars that are the direct result of the Illinois State Museum. Further, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that the collection be open to the public. I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the museum open."

*Denise Handwerker
Elmwood Park, IL*

As a historical researcher I have become familiar with the wonderful resources that have been made available to me through the Illinois State Museum staff at the Dickson Mounds and ISM Annex facilities. Our research has centered around Illinois' early Frontier expansion and the great folks at the ISM have assisted us greatly allowing our research to advance much further than we anticipated. Much has been learned how early pathways influenced the settlement of Illinois but much more is waiting to be discovered. Closure of the ISM facilities will be an enormous loss to my fellow researchers and I along with countless research groups like ours who have spent thousands of hours over the years shedding new light on Illinois' distant past. Should the ISM close we will lose access to one of the most unique depository of history and culture in the country, setting Illinois' research back by years. The staff at the ISM have assisted not only our group with valuable historical referencing, but also multitudes of students who represent Illinois' future. Closing the doors will be an incalculable loss to not only researchers, but Illinois citizenry as a whole.

Regards,

Luke Moore
141 Miller Dr.
Paducah, Ky 42003

Dear Governor Rauner,

RAISE TAXES ON THE WEALTHIEST 2%. STOP doing everything you can to hurt low and middle income Illinoisans. If the wealthiest, and yes that includes you, paid their fair share, there would be enough money to run this state. Take a serious look at the way the governor of Minnesota turned that state around. None of your policies are going to do anything, but line the pockets of your rich friends and limit opportunities and the lives of everyone else. DO YOUR JOB! **Negotiate** a budget and keep our state up and running!

Sincerely,
Bonnie Nichols

Dear Governor Rauner:

I am very concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. As I was a graduate School student in Japan, data and information supplied from the ISM System have greatly helped my thesis work. Not only for citizens in Illinois, but also scientist and researchers from many countries have been benefited by the outstanding achievements of ISM system. If the closure of the ISM system realized, stagnation of the continuous researches and the education, preservation of cultural heritages are inevitable. It will be a serious damage to the welfare of Illinois citizens and international development of science. I sincerely hope your generous decision and continuous development of ISM system.

Sincerely,

Technical Staff Ph.D Takuma Nakamura
Kyushu University, University Forest, Hokkaido Research Forest
089-3705 Kita-5jyo 1cyome 85 Ashyoro, Ashoro-gun, Hokkaido, Japan, 089-3705

For over one hundred years, the state museum has sponsored research, assembled collections and enriched the people of Illinois, preserving our heritage and educating us about our state. If the museum is closed, this heritage may be lost forever. Would we ever be able to reassemble the vast collections or re-attract the wonderful scholarly talent that is now part of our museum?

The annual budget for the museum is a pittance compared to the size of the state's budget problems.

Please do not allow this institution to be permanently sacrificed on a political altar.

Linda Wheeler

Dear Governor Rauner:

As Japanese one citizen, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society.

Respectfully,

Takahiro Sato

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a member of the public who is deeply involved with the history and conservation in Mettawa Illinois, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

I also represent Deerpath Farm, a 200 acre conservation residential development which includes 140 acres of permanently protected and restored native open lands. Within the Deerpath Farm Preserve lie multiple Historic Preservation sites. Prior to development, many archaeological treasures (including arrow heads and other prehistoric tools) were recovered from these lands. Those artifacts are currently held in the collection of the Illinois State Museum.

It goes without saying that the people of Illinois naturally benefit from the ISM System, which has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped). The citizen consumers of Illinois should not be cut off from this valuable institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

In addition, as a former (and perhaps future) contributor to EnjoyIllinois.com, I urge you to consider what kind of message this cut might send, not only to the residents of Illinois, but also to potential tourists. Is Illinois a state that does not value its own priceless cultural resources? Or is Illinois a state that nurtures its homegrown treasures -- the kind of state which stands strong to attract tourist dollars and investor resources?

I believe that the ISM System is vital to Illinois and should be preserved and nurtured. Do not close the Illinois State Museum System.

Sincerely,

Linda Gardner Phillips
14704 W IL RTE 60
METTAWA IL 60048

The Illinois State Museum is an important component of the cultural life of Illinois. It brings a variety of exhibits to locations around the state. It also provides opportunities for Illinois artists to show and sell their artworks. Please find a way to continue the museum and its satellite locations and the programming they provide.

Donna Hapac
Artist and Citizen of Illinois

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. Some of our important databases of Japanese plants, animals and fossils are also maintained and updated in the System. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society.

Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

HIRATA Daiji
Executive Director
Curator of Geology
Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History, JAPAN

Dear Governor Rauner:

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. Some of our important databases of Japanese plants, animals and fossils are also maintained and updated in the System. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society.

Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Shinji Seguchi

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a citizen, parent, and teacher who formerly worked for the Child Abuse Council based in Iowa and Illinois as a forensic interviewer and community educator. I interviewed children who had been Access to museum resources creates a larger world for children, and is a factor in building resilience for children with ugly home lives. Museums give hope and literally save lives by offering opportunities to know that the world is much bigger than the horrors they may know. Please strengthen our children by preserving this resource.

- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts “Saturplay,” a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM’s summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families and the one in ten children who are sexually abused and experience fear in daily life. 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities. In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources.

Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM’s unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Kiesa Kay

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor

State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. Some of our important databases of Japanese plants, animals and fossils are also maintained and updated in the System. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society.

Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,
Masakuni Kimura

To the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

I urge you to recommend strongly against closing the Illinois State Museum. I am a resident of Champaign, and I often visit the museum when I come to Springfield to visit my sister and friends. I have read with great dismay the newspaper accounts of the threatened closure. The closure of the ISM would shutter an irreplaceable resource for science and education in Illinois. Scientists at the museum conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on large, multi-disciplinary projects that could not be done without the collections housed at the ISM. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their undergraduate and graduate students to the expertise of the ISM staff, and rely on its collections and facilities in their research and teaching. Public school teachers bring tens of thousands of school children to the museum every year. Scientifically and educationally, closing the museum would be enormously costly to our state.

It also seems clear from the recent news analysis, in the Chicago Tribune and elsewhere, that closing the museum will be financially costly to the state as well. The budget of the museum is small relative to the economic benefits the museum brings to the state and to the city of Springfield. Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy. Researchers at the ISM also bring in federal grants, supporting hiring and further contributing to the state economy.

I very much hope that you will recommend against closing the ISM, and against destroying this valuable resource for our state.

Cynthia Fisher

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am currently an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, OR. My personal connection with the ISM is related to my graduate work on faunal analysis and historical archaeology. Without the expert assistance provided by ISM staff and access to collections housed at the museum, it would not have been possible to complete the research.

I oppose closing the ISM for several reasons. The ISM houses the premier comparative collection of faunal remains in the region which is a vital resource for researchers not just in Illinois, but many midwestern states and throughout the country. The faunal collection is, of course, just one example of many that demonstrates the ISM's importance. Loss of the facilities and access to the museum's collections as a whole represents a grossly irresponsible decision that threatens the continued preservation and respect due our history and cultural heritage both as a nation and for all those who came before.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Rory Becker
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Eastern Oregon University
Office: ACK 101

I oppose the closing of the Illinois State Museum system. The Illinois State Museum provides educational and cultural resources for visitors and citizens of Illinois, and economic opportunities for artists. The system generates tourist income and economic growth for the state. It is a part of the history and culture of Illinois. Without these elements, Illinois will become an empty shell.

I am submitting these comments as a written statement to be filed.

Thank you.
Donna June Katz

To whom it may concern,

My name is Laura Knox. My family has lived in Springfield, IL for five or more generations. I have been born and raised here, and I am twenty five years old. When I was a child the Illinois State Museum was one of my favorite places to go. Even as an adult I have gone there just to see what they have added to the exhibits, and I enjoy every second. I have even taken children there who had never been, and I have never seen such excitement as they experienced from removing the digital screens from their faces and giving them a hands on educational experience. If this facility is closed that means this state, which was voted most monetarily corrupt, will yet again be stealing from young children. Not only in an educational manner, but also social, mental, physical, and REAL LIFE experiences in the safety of this facility. Perhaps, if financing is part of the issue in keeping this facility open to the public, a small fee can be installed to better marketing, and finance the upkeep of the facility. Funding of higher education in Illinois has already been cut. The country is on the decline in global education. How much are we going to reduce the access to knowledge in a controlled learning/reference facility? Thus, closing the museum will be an absurd and ultimately greedy decision. If this state would like to keep/work on a more positive appearance for this country they may want to reconsider closing what few areas and facilities we have to connect with nature, history, and education. Our own government officials may want to consider donating funds to such facilities and areas. Aren't our elected officials supposed to be for (not against) the people.

Laura Knox

One of the stupidest, shooting-one's-own-foot actions that the State of Illinois could take would be closing its science museums.

We must recognize that stimulation of interest in science is one of the keys to eventual innovation by those very kids whose interest in science was the result of visiting science museums. The State of Illinois needs to promote innovative industry, not kill it. Investing in its museums is obviously not an immediate stimulus for bringing innovative industry, but it is a crucial and subtle one. De-funding those museums would be a give-away to other states of the stimuli leading to that innovation. Moreover cutting off the funding for these museums simply wouldn't make a noticeable dent in resolving the State's financial problems; it would amount to less than 0.2% of the budget shortfall.

Raise the income tax rate for people earning over \$1,000,000, for example, if you want to do something about the debt.

R. Stephen Berry
5317 South University Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615

Sir

As a child I watched as the new Illinois State Museum building was built. From my first visit as a student of Divernon School District 13, the story of our past has captured my imagination. This thrill has sent me in a life long journey to try and add to the story of Illinois past. Over the years I have come to know of the staff and married a staff member. All departments have given me advice and help just as they do for thousands in Illinois and around the world.

The staff and their professional use of the massive collection owned by the people of our State has educated countless people on the greatest gift of humanity, Life and it's history. There is no price one can place on such an asset as the ISM staff and collections. Closing the ISM will break this important link in knowledge and all of society will suffer.

Thank you for your time and for giving me the opportunity to voice my thoughts on this serious matter.

David M. Brady
1901 South Lincoln Ave.
Springfield, IL. 62704

I am writing to express my deep concern about the closing of the Illinois State Museum. The museum represents not only a place where my children were exposed to the wonders of the natural world and the sciences but it is also a repository for the natural history and culture of our State. How is it justifiable to close this institution which offers so much to so many people of all ages. I understand that the State is facing a serious financial crisis but this is not the way to address those issues. I urge you to keep the Illinois State Museum open for its educational programs that reach so many children of all ages, for its world-class collections and research and for its significance as a state landmark that preserves our history.

Nathela Chatara

545 Stange Avenue

Springfield, IL 62704

Closure? Really? Have you even looked @ ways to reduce costs and keep them open? Or given citizens of this state a chance to help with a budget or volunteering? The Illinois State Museum system is a benefit for the public and scholars and those items UNIQUELY Illinois! Very adamantly against closure.

Aangi Mueller
Springfield IL

~~I have just received information concerning the possible closing of the Dickson Mounds Museum to the public.~~

The museum is a major asset in the archeological and anthropological study of early man's history, especially in Illinois. The mounds are famous throughout the world in the study of the development, progress, and decline of a civilization. We are able to study early Native Americans at the pinnacle of their existence and success.

Please reconsider and leave this great tribute to early man open to the public.

Thank you.

Rodney Doyle

To Whom It May Concern,

The public of Illinois needs the Illinois State Museums to stay open.

We need the arts for our soul. No matter how tough the news may get, it's art, music, dance, drama and writing that touches the heart and makes people feel fulfilled.

As a creative person in Illinois, I've been dismayed by the terrible management of funds and then cutbacks into areas that need the most funding. Tell Governor Rauner NOT to close the Illinois State Museums.

Instead, why don't the politicians take a voluntary pay cut to keep our artistic institutions alive?

Thank you for doing what you can to support the heart and soul of Illinois taxpayers.

Sincerely,
Lynn Sanders

Dear Governor Rauner:

As a scientist, curator and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance.

Some of our important databases of Japanese plants, animals and fossils are also maintained and updated in the System. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities.

Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society.

Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Sincerely,
Ryoma Hayashi

To All it may concern,

The closure of the Illinois State Museum is a great lost to this great State of Illinois. The museum system has been a gem within this state and an envy of many other states.

Illinois Artisans have been a stable force to the economy and have generated much needed tax revenue and jobs, the representation by the State of Illinois through the museum system has allowed Illinois artisans to continue to create and by doing so creating also jobs and tax revenue, along with showing that our State has a very vibrant and diverse economy.

Sincerely,
Christine Freeburn
Fused Glass Artist and member of the Illinois Artisan Program for 24 years

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an Illinois citizen and Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Springfield. My first contacts with the Illinois State Museum (ISM) were in 1979 when I came to UIS, then Sangamon State University. As an anthropologist it was important for me to have contacts with others in my field and with only one other anthropologist at the university, the scientific staff at the ISM -- anthropologists, archaeologists, paleontologists -- became important and valuable colleagues over the years, inviting me to participate in their weekly "brown bag" seminars, offering courses as adjunct professors and mentoring our students through the university's Applied Study Term. And in the 1990s the relationship with the ISM allowed UIS to hire an internationally known archaeologist by offering her laboratory space and an appointment as an ISM Adjunct Research Associate.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

1. The ISM is an important educational and intellectual center for downstate Illinois. The museum's exhibits on the flora, fauna and native peoples of Illinois are excellent, and provide visitors insights into the diversity of Illinois' natural resources and fascinating history, from the Pleistocene animals that roamed our state to the cultural diversity that enriches today's Illinois. In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. The ISM's educational, cultural and intellectual opportunities provide Illinois citizens and visitors experiences unmatched outside of Chicago.
2. The museum's scientific staff includes anthropologist, archaeologist, paleontologist, botanist, geologist, and zoologist as well as scholars of the decorative arts. The ISM's focus on Quaternary science (an inter-disciplinary field of study focusing on change in the last ice age and the recent Holocene) is recognized internationally and makes the ISM's staff comparable to the faculties of best national and international universities in the field. In a world facing climatic change, it is especially important that research in this area is not eliminated.
3. The ISM makes an important contribution to Springfield's economy and tourism. Elimination of the ISM would not only be a great educational and cultural loss, it would be shortsighted from an economic perspective. Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy. In addition ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year. The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

James Stuart

I do not come from financial wealth. However, I do come a culturally rich background. Since I was a child, I have enjoyed and deeply valued the opportunity to freely attend museums in Springfield, Illinois, the U.S. and the world. Somehow these opportunities made me feel part of a larger community, standing on equal footing to learn about and be inspired by, our common human heritage.

Please do not allow the Illinois State Museum and its satellite sites to be destroyed. We are not the Taliban. The short-term savings cannot begin to compare with the long-term economic and cultural losses.

Sincerely yours,
Juliet Slack

Dear Governor Rauner,

The Illinois State Museum plays an important part in our state's culture. Presentations of our state's natural history at the museums serve as a valuable resource for students, universities and tourists vacationing in Illinois. Visiting the museum in Springfield with my daughter was a great experience for us, as well as for a lot of Illinois families. Have you and your family ever been there? Have you been to any of them? Seeing it disappear after all these years seems like an unnecessary step in a solution for the budget crisis and it would be very difficult to recover from. The closure of the museums would not only have an impact on the employees from the local communities, but an economic impact on the state from lost revenues.

As a member of the Illinois Artisans Program for many decades and attending numerous art sprees, I've been given an opportunity to meet people from all over the world that came to visit the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. I felt like an ambassador of sorts, welcoming the visitors to Illinois. They were there for the architecture and the art at the Illinois State Museum Gallery and the Artisans Shop. Tourists love museums and art galleries. The closing of our state's treasures would be wrong. Please keep our culture alive, past and present. Keep the Illinois State Museum system open.

Arlene Salamendra

3512 Clason Street

Plano, Illinois 60645

The IL State Museum is a valuable resource. Maybe donations can be more actively encouraged?

Carolyn Harmon

As a citizen of Illinois, I worked at the ISM from 1982-1984 as an archaeological research assistant, during which time my work was published as the Illinois State Museum Monograph in Archaeology 22. My work there directly contributed to my professional development and current position as a university professor, a role in which I contribute to educating students about humanity's social and cultural development through the teaching of archaeology.

I have personal experience supporting the work of the ISM researchers, who conduct internationally important scientific research in many fields that directly contributes to better understandings of pressing global concerns such as climate and environmental change, and to answering important questions about the origins and development of human society in North America. Throughout the global research community, the ISM is recognized world wide for its research excellence, and its incomparable research collections.

Moreover, as an employee of the ISM, I directly witnessed the museum's importance to the people of Illinois and the critical role it plays in civic education and the creation of responsible citizens. The ISM is truly the peoples' museum— its visitors and patrons feel deeply connected to it, and these feelings of ownership facilitate a deep sense of responsibility towards the state of Illinois and the local venues that house branches of the museum. The connections that the ISM creates between the people and the State of Illinois is of significant intangible value to the betterment of life for all Illinoisans.

The ISM is an unparalleled treasure of incalculable value, its loss would be a long term tragedy for the State as it pursues short term measures to address its budget difficulties. Once the ISM is gone— its researchers scattered, its facilities shuttered, and its collections left orphaned, it will be impossible to reconstitute. Its loss would be felt by the State and its people not for years or for decades, but for centuries to come and will make Illinois a less attractive place to live and work. Illinois' early 21st century governing officials and their shortsightedness will be scorned ever after if the ISM is closed. Do not live in history as the destroyers of the ISM, there are other solutions to the State's budget problems.

Sincerely,
Dr. Gwen Bennett
Assistant Professor
Departments of Anthropology and East Asian Studies
McGill University
Montreal, QC, H3A 2T7
Canada

I am writing to express my dismay and opposition to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum. I am a geologist and I have worked closely with scientific researchers from the Museum at many points in my forty-year career. The Museum maintains important archives of the history and prehistory of the state of Illinois, the nation, and the world, and provides public access to this knowledge. The Museum has an innovative and incredibly productive research staff and has long been important in promoting and facilitating interdisciplinary research in geology, geography, and ecology that is directed at understanding how the world's climate has varied in the past. This research provides essential context for understanding ongoing (and potential future) climatic variability and change.

Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

Bob Thompson

I have been a proud member of the Illinois Artisans program for the past 15 years. This valuable program promotes over 450 juried artists from all over the state of Illinois. It provides opportunities for artist to exhibit and sell their work at the three different shops operating in Rend Lake (which was forced to close), Springfield and Chicago.

My exposure through this program has been an important part of my small business. It provides not only sales, but a chance to educate the public through the Art Sprees, Trunk Shows and Exhibitions. We are always interacting and demonstrating when we are on site. The staff at the Illinois Artisans centers is highly knowledgeable about what we artists can produce and in turn educate all that shop in the stores.

The exposure as a Member of the Illinois Artisans Program has also directly led to feature shows in other art centers, corporate commissions, and connections to the broader arts community in Illinois.

Illinois should be proud of its resident artists and like so many other states, provide a program and place for tourists and locals alike to view, appreciate and purchase their work. Please retain this program and help many small businesses in the state of Illinois. Yes, artists are small business owners, too.

Kristi Sloniger

PLEASE do not close our State Museums. These are treasures which can be used and appreciated by all. I have taken teachers to the IL State Museum and also worked with them on projects to benefit IL schools. The loss of these institutions would be a tragedy and SAVE NO MONEY!

Lanis Petrik

Lanis Petrik
Teacher Programs
Brookfield Zoo/ Chicago Zoological Society
3300 Golf Rd.
Brookfield IL, 60513

Please open the museums. We cannot just throw away our heritage. One of the best things in Southern Illinois was the art museum and gift shop here in Whittington. We were privileged to view absolutely great art and crafts of some of the very best artists in Illinois. I morn that I cannot go and see these wonderful articles. Especially the gift shop. it was a beautiful site to see and purchase fine arts and crafts.

Joan Skiver-Levy
1310 East Main Street
West Frankfort, IL 62896

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

As an archivist, librarian, and historian I oppose closing the ISM. Museums fulfill a vital link to our past as well as education for the future. An informed and engaged citizenry is essential in a democratic society.

The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, and encourage civic engagement.

ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.

For these reasons and many others, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Katherine McLeister
Professional Archivist
Master Library and Information Science
Bachelor of Science History

Please save our museums! These bring tourists to Illinois. Our children benefit greatly from this museum. Look at all the museums in the northern part of the state. Please stop neglecting downstate.

Thanks,

Renne Walters

It is imperative that the museum and affiliates not be closed down. Besides being important to education, especially those that are home schooled, it brings tourists to Springfield where they spend money on food, hotels and shopping.

Rebecca Spinner

The Illinois State Museum is an important resource to our state, with benefits extending beyond economic quantification. The Illinois State Museum educationally benefits schoolchildren, universities, and researchers with their thoughtfully crafted displays, well-curated permanent collections, and free public programming.

As a former Illinois resident, some of my first memories of field trips were to the Museum's facilities in Springfield, Illinois. Although it was a 6-hour round trip excursion, my grade school valued the educational elements of this field trip enough to justify the *pilgrimage* at least once a year.

As an adult, my artwork was represented at both the Southern Illinois Art & Artisans Center (Whittington, IL) and the Illinois Artisans Shop (Chicago, IL). After completing my Master's degree, I applied for a position with the Illinois State Museum because of its outstanding reputation and as it is an AAM-accredited museum.

These are just a few of my personal experiences with the Illinois State Museum. I strongly urge you to reconsider the closure of this institution. Illinois is already in a sad state of affairs, so it would be a pity to serve another blow to Illinois residents who care about preserving the culture and history of a state that was a cultural mecca of the past.

Sincerely,
Chrystal Nause

Our two nephews were visiting from Washington, DC last week and had the opportunity to visit the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. I cannot begin to tell you how much fun they had in addition to the educational experience. They haven't stopped talking about it. Closing any of the Illinois museums will be detrimental to the educational opportunities currently available to all individuals, but especially to our future generations. Please DO NOT allow this travesty to happen.

Julie Nunes

This type of action will not solve Illinois' money problems. It will only prevent thousands of people from enjoying these wonderful areas that residents & tourists alike enjoy. Illinois benefits from people travelling to see these areas, spend money in these areas, stay in hotels & visit restaurants...all creating revenue. My suggestion to solve Illinois' money problems is for Rauner to stop paying his staff such outrageously high salaries!! I worked at a difficult State job for 36 years before retiring, and I certainly didn't make nearly what they are being paid, in fact, maybe just a third. I resent how he is choosing to harass State workers, close our museums, & try to punish people for situation we did not create.

Cynthia Cross

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a scientist, scholar and former citizen of Illinois. I have worked with many of the educators and scientists at the ISM, and I have brought college students to visit both the Dickson Mounds Museum and the main ISM facility.

Museums have been important parts of cultural heritage in the United States and around the world for a very long time. Natural history museums like the Illinois State Museum play an especially important role in informing citizens about the ecology and history of their state and country, educating both children and adults on issues that concern them as citizens, and helping them to develop an appreciation for the natural and historical background of the state. Further, given the current national concern with children developing an interest and excitement in STEM disciplines, museums play an especially important role in exciting kids about science. The ISM's educational programs and work with teachers allow children to explore different areas of science in unique settings. This educational opportunity is especially important for low income families that do not otherwise have access to such information and opportunities.

Closing a museum is a serious proposition, removing an important educational resource from communities, children and adults; removing the ability for scholars to study the state's collections; and impacting the state's ability to meet the requirements of both state and federal laws for which the museum is responsible. What are some potential reasons that might justify closing such facilities?

1. **Costs.** If the cost of maintaining the facilities has become great, one could argue that the state can no longer afford to support such a museum system. In this case, however, such an argument is false. The Museum's budget of \$6.29 million is a minuscule portion of the State of Illinois budget, and represents only 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion state shortfall. More significantly, visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year, and the ISM facility in Springfield alone contributes about \$17 million to the local economy. Facilities and grants add another \$8.4 million to the state economy, and the ISM receives about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois. In other words, the ISM costs the State very little and brings to the economy significantly more money than it costs. The ISM has undertaken significant cost-cutting measures to limit its burden to the state.

2. **Reputation.** If a museum has a poor reputation or has questionable practices, it might make sense to close the facility. In the case of the ISM, this could not be further from the truth. The ISM is a nationally recognized museum that is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. This accreditation is significant because fewer than 5% of all museums are accredited. Closing would mean the loss of this accreditation and tarnishing the state's reputation. Further, many ISM scholars have significant national and international reputations for the work they do, bringing considerable honor to the State of Illinois, while costing the state little.

3. **Collections.** If a museum does not have significant collections, does not care for them, or if those collections are equally well represented elsewhere, one can argue that the museum does not warrant continued support. The ISM facilities house more than 12.5 million objects representing

the cultural and natural heritage of the state and the region; no other museum represents the state in this way. The ISM makes these collections available to both the public and to researchers. Closure will be costly to the taxpayers of Illinois because there will likely be lawsuits by people who have donated their collections with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Further, state and federal law, as well as written agreements, require specific responses and actions from the state and the ISM; with the ISM closed, it is unclear how those requirements can be met. The state would have to pay significantly to respond to their failure to meet these laws and agreements.

4. **Education.** If a museum does not meet its educational mission, the state can argue that it is not worth keeping the facility open. In addition to scholars and students who come to work with the ISM collections, the ISM plays a critical role in educating current and future Illinois citizens. Approximately 2300 teachers and over 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. Another 1.5 million visitors use the ISM's online resources. The ISM facilities are not only affordable and available for school districts on tight budgets, but the ISM also provides resources for families who home school their children and individual children who are interested in creating their own projects. Over the years, a number of kids have volunteered at the ISM and this has better prepared them for college and has made their applications far more competitive.

I can see many reasons that the ISM is critical for Illinois citizens, especially in a tight budgetary climate. The ISM helps to prepare future Illinois citizens to understand and appreciate the importance of Illinois in terms of its physical and ecological attributes and its history.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you **recommend against** the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lynne Goldstein

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a parent and the Illinois State Museum is an educational experience filled with fun and discovery.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts "Saturplay," a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM's summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.

2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Bridget Russell

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a Suzette Flantua, an academic researcher from the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and for over 8 years I have been involved in different project with the ISM. I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- Closing ISM is not only a local concern, but it will have serious impacts on international scale as well. Keeping ISM open avoids jeopardizing a network of national and international institutes around the world on long running, highly successful projects in a wide range of topics.
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize the position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Suzette Flantua
Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics
University of Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Please don't close the Illinois State Museum. My family and I really liked the various exhibits we saw. It would really be a shame if people from out of state who'd come to the Museum weren't able to see the exhibits. That wouldn't look good for our state.

Alan Holman

Dear Governor Rauner:

As a vertebrate paleontologist and university educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. In particular, Quaternary vertebrate fossil collection, including a lot of excellent proboscidean fossils, stored in ISM System is one of the largest fossil collection in the world. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM System for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Yours respectfully,

Takehisa Tsubamoto

Associate Professor

Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Ehime University, Matsuyama City, Ehime Pref., Japan

Please do not close the Illinois State Museum. This wonderful place provides education enlightenment that is so needed in her state!

Rebecca DeWane

Dear Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

When I first heard rumors about the possible closures of the various State of Illinois Museums, I considered them just that, rumors which could not possibly be true. Over the years, the Illinois State Museum in Springfield has been a part of my family's lives. When our children were young, the Museum was always the place we could go to see familiar treasures and to learn about new ones. We knew we could access these treasures even when we had no extra funds to use. The Illinois State Museum gave my family opportunities to learn, grow, and imagine--and sometimes we just had fun!

As I was growing up in Fulton County, Dickson Mounds Museum was an important part of our lives. Even though the citizens of Fulton County were not descended from the ancient people who once dwelled near the Mounds all those thousands of years ago, we still felt a deep connection to the people who once occupied this river valley. Over the years, the Dickson Mounds Museum has evolved into a truly unique place of learning--a place that not only shares a part of Illinois' past, but helps visitors to think of themselves in relation to that past. This museum is a center for learning and culture that allows access for everyone regardless of economics. This is so important today, as there are very few places in Illinois outside of our state museums and library system that provides these opportunities regardless of economic status. Dickson Mounds provides a wide variety of educational and cultural activities for persons of all ages. And, not only are programs provided at this facility, but educational opportunities are taken on the road so to speak, to schools that might not otherwise be able to visit Dickson Mounds due to budget cuts for field trips.

Dickson Mounds is also important to our family personally. My grandfather, Charles Cooper, and father, John Wm. Cooper were life long collectors of Native American artifacts. Most of these artifacts were found in the Fulton County area. After my father passed away, our family made the decision to donate this vast collection to the Dickson Mounds Museum. We made this decision in good faith as we knew it was too important not to be shared. Our wish was that others might learn from/be inspired by our dad's collection. Have you ever held a tool that was created by a person who actually lived, loved, raised a family and died in Fulton County over 5 thousand years ago? I have. And, because of my dad and Dickson Mounds, everyone has an opportunity to see, learn from, and connect with these people from our past...and maybe think about improving our futures.

Please do not close the Illinois State Museum System. I honestly cannot believe that doing so would in any way benefit our state budget. Really, how could closing such resources of education and culture be a positive step for our state? Of course, I know that serious, and most likely painful cuts are going to occur in our state budget, but closing programs that offer access for everyone, and in the process help generate local business(by visitors to these facilities spending money at nearby businesses) just doesn't make sense. Were plans such as offering reduced hours of operation even discussed?

Please re-consider this idea of closures. This would only hurt our state in the long run. The Illinois State Museums tell the story of our state. Please don't silence our story.

Cynthia Knutilla

I feel the reasons the Illinois State Museum is important to all of us as citizens of this state are found on this this facility's Web site, and specifically its Mission Statement page. Quoting from this source (<http://www.museum.state.il.us/geninfo/mission.html>) .

"During an age in which Illinois and its citizenry are continually confronted with change and the prospect of new challenges, to sustaining their lives, it is essential that a definitive source of information on Illinois be continually expanded and sustained for the future. While other institutions are charged with preserving written records and publications, the Illinois State Museum has the responsibility of preserving and maintaining a tangible record of the state's land, life, people, and art, through the objects that it collects and studies, and the responsibility to engage society in discovery and stewardship of Illinois' natural and cultural heritage . . ."

In short, the Illinois State Museum (ISM) for over 135 years has been our central repository of natural and cultural history, currently alive and vibrant in the present, so as to guide us as citizens into the future. Once shuttered, even if temporarily, the ISM becomes dead to us all, along with the loss of our state's heritage and of who we are as its citizens. We are being denied access to our own heritage.

The Illinois State Museum system represents, for all citizens, a natural and cultural history safety net, without which we are in real endangerment of a free-fall into our own decay and ignorance of where we have been, who we are now and of what we hope to become.

I am vigorously opposed to the closure of the Illinois State Museum system.

Respectfully submitted,

--Mark Flotow,
Springfield, Illinois

As an educator, curator and concerned citizen I am voicing my OPPOSITION to the closing of the Illinois State Museum.

The Illinois State Museum has provided a plethora of services not only to the citizens of Illinois but to researchers, educators and visitors from around the world. Over the past 100+ years the museum has accomplished many things, including gaining the TRUST of many individuals and groups. They have trusted that the museum would care for their collections and artifacts as well as make them accessible to those seeking to learn. By closing the museum that trust will be lost.

In a time when Illinois is more famous for its negative politics than it's contributions to our culture and rich history, we need institutions such as the Illinois State Museum to be open and maintained even more. An asset this valuable should not be used as a pawn in a political game. The stakes are simply too high to be risked for little or no gain, and quite possibly (and realistically) a catastrophic loss.

Please accept this as my written testimony to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

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Shelley LaMantia-Wright
Dean, Professional Arts
Director, State Street Gallery
Robert Morris University - Illinois

I am a museum director and professor at East Tennessee State University. Myself, colleagues, and students have benefited greatly from the work done by the Illinois State Museum for over the past 20 years.

In addition, I have collected and donated substantial collections that are now curated at the museum and it is critical that researchers continue to have access to these specimens.

The Museum's public education concerning the natural history of central North America has provided invaluable to school children, the general public, educators, and scientists.

Please consider the value the Illinois State Museum has provided for many years in your closure discussions. It is critical to the ongoing education of our populace.

Thank you for your consideration,

Blaine Schubert

*Dr. Blaine W. Schubert, Director
Center of Excellence in Paleontology
Box 70357, East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN 37614*

Dear Governor Rauner:

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence and globally recognized staff, and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects and databases of state, national and global importance. Some of our important databases of Japanese plants, animals and fossils are also maintained and updated in the System. The ISM System is essential for public outreach and education not only for the citizens of Illinois but also for the citizens of the international communities. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society.

Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois and elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Akira Yamashina

Curator of
Togariishi Museum of Jomon Archaeology
Toyohira 4734-132, Chino City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a former intern with the Illinois State Museum. I interned in the summer of 2007, and the museum provided me with valuable work experience. The museum is the primary reason I have my current career, and having worked one on one with the ISM staff, I feel it would be a detriment to the state of Illinois if it is closed.

I oppose closing the Illinois State Museum for the reasons listed below:

The museum provides the public with access to Illinois' history, art and culture free of charge. It would be a shame to close this institution when it only makes up 0.0072% of 2015 fiscal year state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 fiscal year \$4 billion shortfall. In turn, visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy. It makes no economic sense to close a facility that generates \$17 million for the local economy with a \$6.29 million operating budget.

Furthermore, the professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, photography, decorative arts, fine arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise. I learned countless skills from the Illinois State Museum's staff and they were instrumental in my training in photography, image editing, and fine arts management. Without my internship, I would have not had the skills to work as a photographer and image editing specialist for a local advertising company in Peoria. The staff are dedicated to preserving history, art, and artifacts. They provide an outlet for culture, art, and history to the general public. They should not be used as pawns for the governor's short sighted agenda.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Megan Maurer

I have been an artist member of the Illinois Artisans Program since 1993 and vigorously oppose the closing of the Illinois State Museum system.

The museums and shops benefit Illinois residents, visitors to our state, and a growing number of artists and artisans. Our museums expose visitors to the history of our state and a wide variety of aesthetic ideas. Our gift shops enable everyone to buy something unique that was Made in Illinois either as a gift or to include in their own lives.

The Illinois Artisans Program validates the accomplishments of our artisans by jury review of their work and provides an exceptional marketplace for the sale of their products. Monthly art sprees enable the public to meet and talk with the artists as they demonstrate techniques involved with their process. Each month's window displays are always eye opening.

The promotion of artistic accomplishment is a worthy pursuit that enriches our daily lives. Illinois investment in culture and history is not expendable.

Sincerely,

Diane Kuta

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
C Russell Stafford, PhD
Professor
Earth & Environmental Systems
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, IN 47803

I want to tell everyone concerned that I don't think Illinois state museums, especially Dickson and Cahokia Mounds. These are priceless gems in Illinois and also the country and they bring some tourism and the money that goes with it to areas that they are in that don't have a lot of other reason for people to visit.

I realize that the two Mounds parks don't seem to bring a great deal of money but the people who go to them go to places in the local area for fuel, snacks, drinks and meals and other things. I know this because I've done that more than once as a patron of both wonderful sites.

That isn't even considering the benefits school children and adults can get learning about those who lived here before we are here. Those quality of life features can't be balanced in a ledger but my family and I are more than willing to pay a little more in taxes to keep these priceless facilities open. Some things are worth keeping available to the public.

Bob Williams
1313 Heritage Road West
normal, Il. 61761

Dear Governor

I am a Japanese professor of vertebrate paleontology belonging to the Okayama University of Science.

As a vertebrate paleontologist, I have been worrying about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum system. In our field, ISM is well known as an important museum that has invaluable collection of Quarternary mammals and Mazon creek fossils. The closure of the ISM would be a great loss for the vertebrate paleontological research and education, not only in USA but all over the world.

I am against to the closure of ISM.

Please consider once again how large the cultural value of ISM is for the Illinois society, and save the ISM for the future of Illinois.

Shinobu Ishigaki

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a lifetime citizen of Illinois. I am an artist and professor.

I oppose closing the ISM for the following reason: I have visited the museum regularly for my entire life, first as a young student, then as a professor bringing my own students and introducing them to the museum. I have exhibited work at the museum as have my own professors and as my students now do. That is an extraordinary and irreplaceable history that extends back in time and needs to be protected for the future. It is the responsibility of the state to do so.

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.
-
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
-
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
-
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
-

- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.
-
- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

YOUTH EDUCATION

- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts “Saturplay,” a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM’s summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.
-
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.
-
- Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

NUMBERS

- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.
Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors Dickson Mounds in Lewistown: 50,000 visitors Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors Southern Illinois Art Gallery near Sesser: 18,000 visitors Springfield: 200,000 visitors

- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.
-
- ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.
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- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.
-

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Richard Deutsch

My name is Deborah Bacigalupo and I oppose the closure of our Illinois State Museums. I am a retired teacher and a Master Naturalist. I had training at the Dickson Mounds Museum. I hope you have many speakers opposing this closure today. I know many of my friends are also opposed to it. Our museums are something to be proud of. Please do not make the mistake of closing these facilities.

Deborah Bacigalupo

Our family is opposed to the closing of the Illinois State Museum.

Please consider the value of traditional art in a digital age where young people often get lost in their devices.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors will still support this museum, when you find a way to keep it as a living testament to knowledge and learning.

Thank you,
Dan Seidman Family
Dan, Wendy, Josh, Abbie, Rebekah

To Whom It May Concern,

I fully support the closings of museums due to lack of funds. Recovery for the entire state budget must start somewhere. I do not see anyone caring about our children when the Teachers Union holds our children hostages by refusing to teach. Illinois residents as a whole are much more important than having museums remain open. The democrats in the State must understand that they have caused these financial problems and now must do what is needed to fix them. The people of Illinois do not have any more time to waste or money to give to a government that is not looking out for ALL the people in the state. There are many other things to do rather than visit a museum. Try reading about the states history or start a roundtable to discuss history, interaction can be a huge plus.

Governor Rauner was voted as the governor to accomplish what had to be done to bring the state back to a balanced budget and the democrats and possibly this court will go against the voters as to doing what needs to be done.

All people of Illinois are more important than any museum and their voting voices MUST be heard.

With Respect,
Carol Ronowski

I wish the museums and galleries that have been shuttered could be re-opened. Clearly, they have brought in a lot of tourism, and in a bigger picture, tourism brings in tourism dollars, not only to museums, but very much to peripheral businesses.

I am an Illinois Artisan, and while I certainly do not make a lot of money at the galleries, (which are closed since they are part of the museums) but I enjoyed the exposure and later business that it brought. Also, all artisans pay 50% of their sales to the galleries, making this enterprise a much more minimal expense than other programs.

Please, as a resident of this state, as an artist, and as a tourist who appreciates the scenes Illinois has to offer, I would ask you to re consider the closings and to consider the benefits they offer as a reason for keeping them open.

Thank you

Dale Sinderson

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a Scientist and Educator I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Jennifer Sandrik-Rubio

To the Commission:

I write to urge that the Commission reject the closure of the Illinois State Museum. The alleged funds to be saved annually, \$4.5 million, is insignificant in the general revenue of the State of Illinois and the damage done to the education and advancement of science and knowledge is substantial. The Illinois State Museum is not simply an exhibit that one visits. It is a facility that preserves the national history of Illinois and continues research of the nature of the state that has impact on the development and preservation of state resources. A society that ignores its museums for illusory short term balance sheets is a society that fails to see value regardless of cost. It is a society that fails to fund its pension debt in order to spend money today. Let us not repeat that mistake by closing the Illinois State Museum. Thank you.

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Dennis A Rendleman  
2305 Augusta Drive  
Springfield, IL 62704

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Dear Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV), whose Board of Directors voted unanimously to urge Commission members to oppose the closing of the Illinois State Museum System (ISMS). A 600-member non-profit organization whose members are committed to the scientific study and conservation of archaeological sites and collections, the ASV is very aware of the importance of educational and cultural institutions such as ISMS, and we believe the country as a whole is diminished when they are closed. The cultural and natural resources of Illinois that are in the care of ISMS are some of the most significant known in the country, and ISMS' professional reputation and outreach efforts are among the best. It would be devastating to the resources and the people who use them -- descendant communities, scholars, school children -- to no longer have access to the public wealth that belongs to the people of Illinois.

We have been through a number of challenges to state-held sites and collections in Virginia, and each time we counter with a number of points that are applicable to the Illinois situation (and in some instances, better illustrated in Illinois):

\*Museums are money-makers for state governments. A 2010 article in Investopedia presents compelling evidence of this, with Illinois ranking 8th in the country for generating tourism dollars (ahead of Virginia, the land of historic sites). In that year, one in ten jobs in Illinois was associated with tourism, which contributes \$30.7 annually to state coffers. A 2012 report by the Illinois Association of Museums demonstrates a **\$2 billion economic annual impact of museums** in the state.

\*The closure of museums results in the loss of staff, many of whom have years of expertise with the collections and outreach/educational activities. The strong reputation of ISMS lies with its staff, and their loss would be incalculable -- and akin to tearing out the pages of library books due to the loss of knowledge that will result.

\*We have professional and ethical responsibilities to care for cultural and natural heritage and to curate them properly. As citizens, we have these responsibilities, too. ISMS provides a model of leadership in this area, having been accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is widely known as a top-notch system that welcomes researchers from around the world.

\*Museums make lasting educational impacts on children, reinforcing their commitment to their communities and state. ISMS has a stellar record of educational outreach, with public school curriculum relying on the facilities and their programs to meet student needs.

In sum, the Archeological Society of Virginia requests that you recommend against closure of the ISMS, which is a remarkable institution and a model for the country. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carole Nash, Ph.D., RPA  
President, Archeological Society of Virginia  
(<http://www.archeologyva.org/>)

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Sirs:

I am OPPOSED to the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum. It is a public treasure...

Not only is it a museum of natural history and culture, but the collections on Ash and the research staff are irreplaceable!

Please think of another way to cut expenses, NOT THIS!

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Christine Lemke

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The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor  
State of Illinois  
207 State House  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a social and natural scientist interested in scientific literacy and social justice in the United States, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

**I have used specimens from museums such as these in order to complete my Master's and PhD degrees. We NEED these collections. We NEED this educational material for the next generation.**

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

**Elizabeth A Marchio**

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The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor  
State of Illinois  
207 State House  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and parent, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Teaching the people of Illinois about their local flora and fauna is a critical thing for creating citizens literate and connected to the state in which we live.

Sincerely,

Erika Hasle

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Re: Dickson Mounds Museum

This Museum is a treasure and unlike anything that can be found elsewhere in the Midwest. It not only helps us understand the earliest settlers here, the Native Americans of the Mississippian era, but also offers a portrait of Illinois before its landscape was largely altered for cultivation. I remember standing on one of the mounds and looking out at the river valley below and knowing that what I was seeing, the Native Americans saw 300 years ago. It was an awesome moment.

So many of our school children don't know and need to know what our state once looked like, how it evolved, and why we need to preserve its precious resources. The Dickson Mounds Museum drives this home like no other museum.

I am urging you not to close this museum. It is a miniscule amount of money in the budget for such a vast resource of knowledge about our heritage. Frankly, Gov. Rauner, with his vast personal fortune, could easily fund this museum for the next years if he wanted to. I think it is a travesty for him to put such an important educational resource on the cutting block.

Judith Valente  
Normal IL

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I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

***I am a retired Anthropology professor , who taught at Illinois State University, and am now am an adjunct at Illinois Wesleyan University.***

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

ISM is a nationally recognized and accredited museum, and is an important asset to the State of Illinois and its citizens. It houses countless artifacts, collections, and databases which are an invaluable part of our State and national heritage and have been painstakingly assembled and curated. Many were given to the State Museum by individuals, organizations, and institutions who trusted the State to preserve and share their contributions. The ISM is a very important educational tool for all of our citizens of all ages. Closing the ISM would greatly harm the citizens of this State and would damage the reputation of the State of Illinois.

I am especially concerned about Dickson Mounds Museum, which is a nationally well-known archaeological museum that highlights a very important archaeological site from the impressive Mississippian period of Native American history. It serves a very important educational role for our students and citizens, as well as a focus point for Native Americans from our area as well as elsewhere in the nation. I teach a course on Museum Studies, and a visit to Dickson Mounds is one of the most important parts of the course. Dickson Mounds provides a very respectful and far-reaching presentation of Native American heritage, located in a seminal archaeological site and in a beautiful natural setting that has been restored to much of its original setting. I have brought out-of-state anthropologists to visit and they were very impressed. saying over and over again, "This is beautiful!" I consider this Museum one of the best things the State has to offer.

Museums in general play a crucial educational role for all citizens and preserve our historical, cultural and natural heritage; I consider it shortsighted to close them, and especially the very important ISM system and one of its crowning jewels--Dickson Mounds.

I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

***Dr. Linda Giles. PhD***

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Hello. I am writing to express my concern about the possible closure of Illinois museums especially Dickson Mounds. Our museums offer the opportunity for education as well as cultural enrichment and should remain open, funded and viable. They should not be used as political leverage as they now seem to be in the power struggle between the governor and the legislature.

Dickson Mounds in particular provides a rich variety of education and culture in an area of the state that has precious little of both. It's director, Mike Wiant, has done an outstanding job with the facility and is well respected in the area and beyond.

I hope that you will seriously consider the cultural and educational implications of closing our museums and advocate for them remaining open.

Thank you.

Robert Gorg/Rochelle Liebman  
Cuba, Illinois

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I am very concerned about the possibility of Dixon Mounds in Illinois being forced to close! I moved to Bath Illinois after I retired from teaching in a small town near Burlington Iowa. My son found 3 lots along the river, in Bath, with a small cabin. The lots were a mess of garbage, etc & the cabin had a fallen in roof! My son said he would help me clean up the mess & fix the cabin to be liveable AND then I would be living about 15 miles from him & my grandchildren! Of course, I said, "YES"! Oh what fun to spend time with my grandchildren, playing, exploring nature ,making art, etc. I hunted for all the nature areas..I love being in nature & making art & I have always been drawn to the Native American culture, arts, etc> AND THEN I found DIXON MOUNDS!!! It took my breath away! I have LOVED IT! All of it, the structure of the museum itself, the park like area where it is located, overlooking fields, forest & the Illinois River! I walked through that museum in awe at the displays & then found the multimedia area to walk through ( with the film & talk of native culture, beliefs, ceremony & prayer) It was so awesome that I cried! Of course, I took my grandchildren there, to go thru the museum & to explore & play in the "play area" & to the childrens activity programs. They loved it! I also took all my friends who visited me to see the museum. And I have gone many, many times! For the 1st several years after retiring from teaching I didn't hardly have enough money to live on, so I could only donate a dollar & sometimes less! When friends come to visit, Dixon Mounds is at the top of the list of "things to do" & each friend who has visited has loved it! I still visit it often..& I attend some of the events...especially the Native American event. I would be so very sad if it was forced to c lose! So would many of my friends in the Havana area! I pray that it will continue to stay open...It is such an awesome GIFT to so many people!

Sincerely,  
Kathy Johnson  
(PO Box 13, Bath Illinois 62617)

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I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an artist, designer and avid museum goer and a life long resident of Illinois.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below: **The ISM has been an important showcase for many artists whose work has not been made available to the public outside of the private gallery network. The high quality of these curated exhibitions have greatly enhanced my appreciation of the breadth and importance of Illinois artists and craftsmen. We must never take for granted this valued resource and its impact on the arts community and the citizens of Illinois.**

#### NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.
- 
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
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- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
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- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
- 
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do



their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.

- 
- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

#### YOUTH EDUCATION

- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts “Saturplay,” a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM’s summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.
- 
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.
- 
- Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

#### NUMBERS

- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.

Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors Dickson Mounds in  
Lewistown: 50,000 visitors Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors Southern Illinois Art Gallery near  
Sesser: 18,000 visitors Springfield: 200,000 visitors

- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.
-

- ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.
- 
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall. For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Clearfield

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To whom it may concern,

My children and I are great fans of the museum. Taking an institution that is well-respected in the museum community and gutting it is not the solution for our state's budget woes. The museum's budget is a drop in the bucket compared to the billions in outstanding debt. Keep the ISM open.

Kerri Skrudland, AAHCC  
Bradley Method Childbirth Instructor

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Dear Governor Rauner,

As a member of the voting public, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Deborah Mercer  
Oak Park, Illinois

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Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the Museum Association of Arizona and the leaders of the undersigned State Museum Associations, representing more than 30,000 museums and their communities across the United States, to express our concern at the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

As we are sure you know, these museums serve many critical functions to the citizens of Illinois. In addition to the money that is put into the local and state economy through employment, purchasing, educational services and tourism, the State Museums also demonstrate the commitment that state government makes to the quality of life of its citizens. State Museums serve as trusted sources of knowledge and research, vital resources for teachers and students, and the repository of Illinois's cultural and historical memory.

From our experience in each of our own states, we know how important State Museums are to the health of other museums and their communities, providing leadership, practical assistance, and inspiration to their colleagues.

We very much hope that you will be able to work with the American Alliance of Museums, the Midwest Museum Association and the Illinois Association of Museums to find ways to keep the Illinois State Museum System open and fully operational for the benefit of the citizens of Illinois and beyond.

Sincerely,

Janice Klein  
Executive Director  
Museum Association of Arizona

Kathie Thurman  
Alabama Museums Association

Angela Linn  
Museums Alaska

Kathleen Pate  
Arkansas Museums Association

Katie March  
Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums

Liz Shapiro  
Connecticut League of History Organizations

Daniel Citron  
Delaware Museum Association

Michele Rodgers  
Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries

Dulce L. Kersting  
Idaho Association of Museums

Cynthia Sweet  
Iowa Museums Association

Lisa Dodson  
Kansas Museums Association

Sharon Tabor  
Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance

Sherry J. Wagener  
Louisiana Association of Museums

Erin I. Bishop  
Maine Archives & Museums

Lisa Craig Brisson  
Michigan Museums Association

Lin Nelson-Mayson  
Minnesota Association of Museums

Brian Hicks  
Mississippi Museum Association

Candy Sall  
Missouri Association for Museums and Archives

Deb Mitchell  
Museums Association of Montana

Kathy Aultz  
Nebraska Museum Association

Crystal R. Van Dee  
Nevada Museums Association

Caroline Harris  
New Jersey Association of Museums

Lisa Pugh  
New Mexico Association of Museums

Devin R. Lander  
Museum Association of New York

Jenny Yearous  
Museums in North Dakota

Johnna McEntee  
Ohio Museums Association

Brenda Granger  
Oklahoma Museums Association

Rusty Baker  
Pennsylvania Museums

Zinnia Willits  
South Carolina Federation of Museums

Dan Brosz  
Association of South Dakota Museums

Adam H. Alfrey  
Tennessee Association of Museums

Ruth Ann Rugg  
Texas Association of Museums

Jayceen Craven Walker  
Utah Museums Association

Jennifer Thomas  
Virginia Association of Museums

Darryl DeGripp  
West Virginia Association of Museums

Joanne Kluessendorf  
Wisconsin Federation of Museums

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Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
ATTN: Facility Closure  
703 Stratton Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

This system is nationally accredited and internationally renowned, and it contributes greatly to our state's economy and cultural heritage.

Closing the state museum system makes no economic sense. If the State shutter the museums, the \$33 million in economic impact they generate annually will disappear, taking jobs with it. The museums will lay off 68 workers. Employees of small businesses that rely on museum and museum visitor spending will find their jobs at risk.

Closing the museums will mean eliminating one of our state's key economic drivers. Museums are the top reason tourists visit Illinois, and our state museum system alone attracts over 386,000 visitors each year.

The proposed closure will provide only meager savings, if any. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources projects \$4.8 million in annual savings. This amount equals just 1/10 of 1% of the state's projected deficit. Moreover, the estimated savings do not include the high costs of the closure process, such as returning millions of objects the museums have under their care as part of agreements with the federal government and other entities. The State will also lose \$2 million in active federal grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation.

I have quantified the significant economic harm that will result, but there will also be damage that is immeasurable. The museums' collection of 13.5 million objects helps us understand and appreciate the arts, nature, cultural diversity, and our shared heritage. The proposed closure will prevent over 2,300 teachers and 40,000 students each year from accessing these learning opportunities.

I urge the Commission to countermand the Governor's directive to implement this closure, and I ask that you do all that you can to keep the Illinois State Museum System open, free, and accessible to the people of Illinois.

Respectfully,

Pamela Richardson Jones

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July 13, 2015

Do NOT allow the Illinois State Museum system to be closed.

Yes, Illinois does have a budget problem.

But it makes NO sense to close the ISMs to solve that problem.

In my initial draft I wrote about the things that anyone can say - the small amount of money the museums costs, the much larger amount of money the museums bring into the state, the costs and complexity of shutting down the museums, the loss of accreditation, the lawsuits that could result, etc. However, since I am an Illinois resident and donor of both art and money, I have a more personal story to tell and will devote my letter to that.

I donated two pieces of art (Webster, Warmack) permanently to the ISM and loaned one piece (Finster). I made these gifts and loans because I trusted the institution and its curators.

These curators are exceptional individuals - Bob Sill in Springfield, Doug Stapleton and Jane Stevens in Chicago. Jim Zimmer, Director of Art and History caps the first rate team I know.

My donations (and those of many others) were made because of the caliber and dedication of this group. More than that, we donors TRUST these PARTICULAR PEOPLE. If the museum closes, even for a short period, these people will disperse. Reassembling people of this caliber and trust level will be difficult - or even impossible - for many years. Once trust is lost, it's not easily regained.

The ISM buildings are like the hardware; the individuals - and the trust they engender- are like the software. We need both hardware and software for the system to work.

The way to be most accountable to the taxpayers of Illinois is to LEAVE THE MUSEUMS OPEN. The ISM has been a valuable asset to the state for 138 years. Please allow it to remain so.

Thank you.

Sherry Siegel  
28 West Chestnut Street  
Chicago, IL 60610

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To the Commission:

For my entire life, Illinois has been my home, my place of employment, and the place of raising my family. The cultural and educational facilities of this state have been a significant part of these experiences here.

Therefore, I write to oppose the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System and its affiliated sites.

This museum system is nationally accredited, is nationally and internationally appreciated, and contributes greatly to our state's economy and cultural heritage.

Closing the state museum system would likely have negative, instead of positive, impact on the Illinois economy. If the museums are closed, the \$33 million in positive economic impact they generate annually will be gone, along with the associated jobs. The museums would be forced to lay off numerous workers, and employees of small businesses that rely on museum and museum visitor spending will risk losing their jobs.

Closing the museums will mean eliminating a key economic driver within the State of Illinois, for museums are a primary reason tourists visit Illinois; and our state museum system alone attracts nearly 400,000 visitors each year.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources projects that closing the state museum system would result in an annual saving of only about 1/10 of 1% of the state's projected budget deficit. An additional consideration is that such closures involve cost-intensive processes, such as returning millions of objects the museums have under their care as part of agreements with the federal government and other entities. The State will also lose \$2 million in active federal grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation.

In addition to the significant economic harm that would result from museum closures, the cultural and educational damage would be immense. The museums' collections of 13.5 million objects helps us understand and appreciate Illinois arts, nature, cultural diversity, and heritage. The proposed closure will prevent over 2,300 teachers and 40,000 students each year from accessing these learning opportunities.

I urge the Commission to take all pertinent factors into consideration and to do all that you can to keep the Illinois State Museum System open and accessible to the people of Illinois. This for the sake of our current citizenry and for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerrold H. Zar  
3095 Wolf Ct  
DeKalb IL 60115

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It is shocking to me to learn Illinois is closing down its State Museums. I was raised in Illinois and still have relatives there. Always, as youngsters and teenagers we were proudly taken to one museum or another by our parents. A painting of my mother's hung in one and enabled her to sell it providing the family badly needed money. Art is vital to our culture. By shutting down these museums, we are telling the public art is not important to the people of Illinois—we are not proud enough of our artists' work to maintain our museums. Illinois is visited by many thousands of people from around the world each year. How shameful not to be displaying the beautiful work done by these talented souls to say nothing about the loss of revenue.

Jane Hilleary

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The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor  
State of Illinois  
207 State House  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a resident of Chicago, a historian, and someone who recognizes the need for information, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Tahja  
730 W. 21st St., #2  
Chicago, IL 60616

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Gov rauner's proposal to shutter the state museums makes no sense, it will not save many dollars and will hurt the state economy, which the governor is trying to boost. the museums get hundreds of thousands of visitors, drawing business to Illinois, and also get grants. Moreover there are transition costs, returning items in the museums' care. Closing them is likely to cost money rather than save it.

Irene Rubin, retired prof of public budgeting, with a specialty in cutback management

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I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System. The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall. Closing will not impact the budget, but rather thousands of citizens, educational programs, events and of course, jobs.

I am a citizen and student of programs that take place at Dickson Mounds Museum. They are a partner with UIS and The Nature Conservancy for land preservation and public awareness.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.
- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities. Dickson Mounds in Lewistown had 50,000 visitors.

- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sara Mathis

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I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am currently a paleontology graduate student in Montana, but I was born and raised, and still legally reside, in Illinois. I grew up loving museums, and the collections at many Illinois museums have aided me in my graduate work. The ISM collections are integral to research across the country and cannot be replaced. Closing the five ISM facilities, especially the accredited main campus, would be a travesty. The museum main campus reached almost two million users last year, providing valuable and irreplaceable interaction to schoolchildren, teachers, and families through their 12.5 million objects. Many national and international researchers, including graduate students, utilize these collections. Many of these people are my colleagues and friends. The programming and data provided by these collections are major additions to interesting youth in science and answering important scientific questions for researchers. These contributions are vastly important for allowing students to attain and retain interest in STEM fields, a category for which U.S. elementary test scores have been falling steadily for years. Additionally, the ISM facilities provide educational programming for the community aside from their collections, attracting researchers and experts in various fields to lecture and lead workshops.

The ISM facilities provide education, enjoyment, and programming to all members of the community. To close these facilities would be to inflict lost opportunities on all Illinoisans, and many others across the nation, and the world. To have such facilities, and the amazing employees working at them, is a boon and a testament to the collections and spirit of Illinois. To close such facilities, even temporarily, is an insult and affront to all Illinoisans, and Americans. That these measures have even been considered is indefensible, and those considering it should be ashamed. I certainly know I am ashamed that my state leaders would hold our cultural institutions hostage to petty political squabbling. It is unacceptable to close these institutions.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

***Katie Tremaine***

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Art is important in Illinois. It is important to the residents & to people visiting this great state. Please let it remain great.

Save our museum.

Regards,  
Patrice Compernelle  
1201 W. Wrightwood Ave  
#17, Chicago, IL 60614

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I am Sam Cahnman. I live about half a mile from the IL State Museum. For the past 12 years I served on the Springfield City Council and the Sangamon County Board. I was honored that the area I represented included two of the world's finest museums, the ISM and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

The AL Museum costs money and most of my former constituents and people all around here have gone to it once. The ISM is free and many people around here have gone back to it again and again. I am also a lawyer, who has had to represent far too many clients in bitter custody battles. The ISM and especially its fantastic Play Museum is a safe place where these parents can take their kids to learn and have fun.

In his campaign for the office Gov. Rauner promised to improve education. In his actions as Governor, he showed his emphasis on education when the only appropriations bill he signed was the one for primary education. One of the prime functions of this museum is education. So, closing it would be totally counter to the Governor's efforts to improve education.

Unless you visited the ISM or studied paleontology, who knew that elephant like creatures once roamed our State, who knew that IL was once south of the equator, who knew that who knew that some bald cypress trees in southern IL are more than 1,000 years old, and who knew that the first director of the museum was a neighbor of Abraham Lincoln.

Recently a new process was developed to study the ancient DNA in the prehistoric bones the museum has. Who knows what new & better methods will be developed in the future. But we won't be able to use them if we don't have those bones.

This museum goes back millions of years, it is our heritage, but closing it is much more about our future than our past. 8-year-old Theresa Vincent wrote in the State Journal-Register yesterday that the museum inspired her love for science. How many future kids are we going to slam the door on by shutting down this gem?

I urge this Commission to recommend against closure of the ISM and its related facilities. Also the Vinegar Hill Neighborhood Association, in which the museum sits, passed a measure opposing its closure.

Thank you.

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Sam Cahnman

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Governor,

The proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum, Dickson Mounds Museum and the Research and Collections Center will grievously harm the people of Illinois. The Illinois State Museum is one of the foremost state museums in the country. It contains the historic treasures of Illinois! These must be maintained and curated for all the people in Illinois. The Illinois State Museum and its faculty are well-known outside of the state for their leadership and research. Illinois is one of the most important crossroads for people in prehistory and history. Cahokia is the largest prehistoric site in the Central and Eastern United States. Dickson Mounds is an even earlier and just as important a prehistoric site located in your state. Closing it would impact (poorly) tourist visitation to the state which also brings in money to the coffers of Illinois. Similarly, many researchers depend on access to the Research and Collections Center for study of Illinois prehistory and history. Closing these facilities would be very short-sighted and show the world that Illinois does not care about its past and future! I do not support their closure and fully back their retention as part of the Illinois State system.

**Dr. Mark A. McConaughy** | Regional Archaeologist  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Bureau for Historic Preservation  
Bushy Run Battlefield | Box 468 | Harrison City, PA 15636-0468  
Phone: 724.527.5585 x103 | Fax: 724.527.5610  
[www.phmc.state.pa.us](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us)

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The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to the state, schoolchildren, universities, researchers and it plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in the community and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. It would cause great economic harm to the community, both to lose this many local jobs and to lose the tourism dollars that are the direct result of the Illinois State Museum. Further, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that the collection be open to the public. I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the museum open.

Support science, history, and culture. The future will thank you.

Sincerely,

Georgia Dennis  
Murfreesboro, TN

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As an Illinois taxpayer, I am writing to convey my dismay at the proposal to close the Illinois State Museums in an effort to resolve the state's budget problems. The root cause of the state's budget woes is lack of fiscal discipline when it comes to state employees' pensions, on both the revenue side and the spending side. In particular, as pointed out in this July 10, 2015 Washington Post article and related graphic, the state legislature and treasurer opted for a kick-the-can-down-the-road by issuing pension bonds and then used proceeds to make current contributions, which resembles a Ponzi scheme. And now, several election cycles later, we've caught up with the kicked can, such that Illinois has the distinction of being at the top of the list for unfunded pension liabilities: more than \$100 billion.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/when-wall-street-offers-free-money-watch-out/2015/07/10/11452e6e-2583-11e5-b72c-2b7d516e1e0e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/when-wall-street-offers-free-money-watch-out/2015/07/10/11452e6e-2583-11e5-b72c-2b7d516e1e0e_story.html)

[http://projects.propublica.org/graphics/pension\\_bonds](http://projects.propublica.org/graphics/pension_bonds)

This requires bold action that specifically addresses the root cause. In other words, it's time to adopt and implement tax increases and prospective pension reform to restore some health and credibility to Illinois's balance sheet. Illinois, Greece, and Detroit are all in serious fiscal crisis. But you don't see Greece or Detroit closing or selling off their museums. What a loss to their residents and citizens it would be if they did, and in any event, more fundamental reforms are needed for the crisis to be addressed. Museum closure and liquidation were discussed in Detroit, but not done. And while Western Civilization didn't arise from Illinois, much of what's important in US History did, including the man widely considered our greatest president ever, Abraham Lincoln. Shame on state officials in the legislative and executive branches if they close museums in an effort to put the state's financial house back in order. The only meaningful fixes are the big levers: increased revenue and pension reform, or Detroit's painful path of bankruptcy and reorganization. It's time for state officials to start managing the state's finances responsibly, and explain to voters so they understand what's at stake. Only then will we, the taxpayers, get on board. Exhibit 1: Greece.

Sincerely,

Myla Taylor Williams

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I am writing as a citizen of Illinois and a great advocate for the Illinois State Museum whose facility in Springfield, as well as other locations, is targeted for closure. Such action would produce extremely negative educational and economic impacts both for citizens and tourists, put at risk the over 13.5 million objects in its world-class collection and trigger loss of the State Museum's national accreditation. These negative impacts, cultural and economic, far out way any modest financial savings to the State of Illinois.

The ISM is one of the most respected institutions of its kind in the entire nation. Its internationally renowned staff and award-winning exhibitions and programs contribute immeasurably to the State's economic vitality and marketing image. It is estimated that visitors to the facilities and off-site programs generate over \$33 million in communities each year. The museum attracts in federal grants alone over \$2 million annually. Since the facilities are free and open to the general public, they also provide invaluable opportunities to low-income families and schools. The Museum has an internationally known research program that documents and interprets long-term changes in Illinois' climate, information that helps shape public policy and informs very practical initiatives in communities throughout the State to protect and enhance our natural environment and ensure public safety. Numerous undergraduate and graduate students use the Museum's collections for research related to their degrees. Museum facilities are also community centers that provide important assets that contribute to the vitality of the communities in which they are located. Last year, nearly 400,000 were served directly by the ISM with 1.5 virtual visitors. School visits brought over 40,000 students and 2,300 teachers into the Museum.

I urge Illinois' Governor and legislators to take all these significant benefits into consideration and not look narrowly at saving a few dollars while squandering huge assets and countless positive impacts.

**Gerald W. Adelman**

President & CEO



25 East Washington Street

Suite 1650

Chicago, IL 60602

T: 312.863.6262

F: 312.863.6251

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I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am an Illinois citizen, student, and educator who has visited the Illinois State Museum, Dickson Mounds, and Lockport Gallery in the past and have encouraged my students to do the same. Based on my student recommendations of the art exhibits at the ISM, I also took my teenage niece there on a “non-Lincoln” tour of Springfield one summer (we visited the Dana Thomas and Vachel Lindsey houses as well).

I oppose closing the ISM because tourism is gold. The governor claims this closure will save money, but he is ignoring the numbers. Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year and the ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy. ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year. The money these closures will save are pennies on the sidewalk, and this purported “savings” is fooling no one. The damage in closing the ISM System, however, could be more than Illinois can really afford.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ardis L. Stewart

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**The following link was provided by the Mayor of Springfield, Jim Langfelder. It links to a video related to the closure of the Illinois State Museum**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZUF6gevbDo>



## **Over 1,000 people sent the following mass email to the Commission to be added to the public record.**

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability  
ATTN: Facility Closure  
703 Stratton Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to oppose the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

This system is nationally accredited and internationally renowned, and it contributes greatly to our state's economy and cultural heritage.

Closing the state museum system makes no economic sense. If the State shutter the museums, the \$33 million in economic impact they generate annually will disappear, taking jobs with it. The museums will lay off 68 workers. Employees of small businesses that rely on museum and museum visitor spending will find their jobs at risk.

Closing the museums will mean eliminating one of our state's key economic drivers. Museums are the top reason tourists visit Illinois, and our state museum system alone attracts over 386,000 visitors each year.

The proposed closure will provide only meager savings, if any. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources projects \$4.8 million in annual savings. This amount equals just 1/10 of 1% of the state's projected deficit. Moreover, the estimated savings do not include the high costs of the closure process, such as returning millions of objects the museums have under their care as part of agreements with the federal government and other entities. The State will also lose \$2 million in active federal grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation.

I have quantified the significant economic harm that will result, but there will also be damage that is immeasurable. The museums' collection of 13.5 million objects helps us understand and appreciate the arts, nature, cultural diversity, and our shared heritage. The proposed closure will prevent over 2,300 teachers and 40,000 students each year from accessing these learning opportunities.

I urge the Commission to countermand the Governor's directive to implement this closure, and I ask that you do all that you can to keep the Illinois State Museum System open, free, and accessible to the people of Illinois.

Respectfully,  
[include your name here]

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Dear Sirs: This is Charles McNutt from Memphis Tennessee. I have heard of plans to close the Illinois State Museum system. I oppose closure vigourosly. The Museum system is fulfilling an important role in the cultural development of thousands of people. Why consider closing such an active institution that has been of tremendous credit to the State of Illinois for so many years?

Charles McNutt  
Memphis, Tennessee

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I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a scientist to whom the Illinois State Museum has been important for most of my life. As a child, growing up in Lewistown, Illinois, I visited Dickson Mounds regularly. Much of my interest in science was fueled by my experiences at Dickson Mounds. Now as a professor at Millikin University, I have served as the Chair of the Zoology Division of the Illinois State Academy of Science (ISAS). The ISAS relies on the Springfield museum for our board meetings and housing of all Academy records. Losing the Illinois State Museum system may lead to the shut down of a large network of the best scientists in the State of Illinois.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

1. Dickson Mounds Museum is a critical anthropological and cultural resource for scientists worldwide, but for the people of Fulton County and surrounding areas in particular. To lose access to this museum and the Springfield museum would be to lose a critical link to the natural history of the state.
2. Closing the Springfield museum will bring with it the collateral damage of disrupting the Illinois State Academy of Science, which is comprised of the leading scientists in Illinois and hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Travis E. Wilcoxon

Travis E. Wilcoxon, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
Millikin University Faculty Athletics Representative  
Chair, Zoology Division of the Illinois State Academy of Science  
Secretary, SICB Division of Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology  
Millikin University  
1184 W. Main Street  
Decatur, IL 62522

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I am writing this as a concerned citizen of the State of Illinois. I object to the proposed closing of our state museum. I am opposed to this action for a number of reasons:

1. The stated reason for the closing is to decrease expenditures in light of the state's budget deficit. From a strictly financial viewpoint, it appears that closing the museum will do little to resolve that problem:
  - a. The overall impact of the closing will be extremely small. The State Journal Register of July 14, 2015 reported that Guerry Suggs, chairman of the Illinois State Museum Board, stated that "the administration says it will save \$4.8 million ... If we have a \$4.8 billion budget hole, \$4.8 million is a very tiny percentage." It is a very, very tiny percentage indeed.
  - b. The DNR Director ( and I therefore assume the governor's administration) has taken the position that it is now the museum has escaped funding cuts in the past and it is now the museum's turn. This position seems to run counter to the facts.
    - i. The museum's state funding is much, much lower today than in the past and state funding represents an ever decreasing percentage of the museum's operating budget. It is interesting that, despite these cuts in funding, the museum continues to operate and prosper, thanks to an active board of directors, support from a very successful foundation and successfully seeking funds from a variety of grants.
    - ii. It seems to be counter-productive to close an entity that has successfully survived and prospered in times of funding cuts. The museum's board and management have provided our state with a world class institution and done so with decreasing support on state funding. They should be congratulated and held up as model for preserving our state's history and culture while doing so in a manner that is less of a burden to taxpayers than it was 15 years ago.
  - c. Statements have been made that indicate it is the Governor's and DNR's position that the museum could be opened again in the future. There seems to be little consideration being given to the cost of reopening the museum. Closing the facilities and maintaining them in good condition will be problematic. But reopening will become more difficult and more expensive with every passing month. If the museum does not remain closed for an entire year, then the projected savings will be much smaller. If the museum is closed for any length of time, it is easy to see the following challenges, each of which could prove to lead to added expense on the part of the state:
    - i. Unless facilities are properly maintained, there will be capital expenditures required to put facilities in operating order appropriate for employees and visitors.
    - ii. The longer the facilities remain closed, the more likely it is that valuable staff will seek other positions. The professional staff includes many individuals with strong academic and experiential credentials. Recruiting new staff at a time when the reputation of the museum will have been badly damaged will be a very difficult and potentially expensive effort.
    - iii. The current amount of funding through the foundation and grants is substantial. It would be overly optimistic to project that these sources will be available at the same level if the museum reopens after an extended period.
  - d. There appear to be financial risks involved that are being completely ignored. There are a number of stakeholders who may take legal action to enforce their rights as stated in agreements with the museum:

- i. The museum has agreed to protect and display Native American artifacts. What are the potential liabilities the state assumes by renegeing on these agreements?
  - ii. The museum has received funding through grants that require work products. If all work is halted, will the grantors require return of these funds? How much is involved and where would that money come from?
2. From a non-financial perspective, the closing is very short sighted. The museum is our state's equivalent of the Smithsonian Institute. It is the guardian of priceless elements of our history and culture and provides a one of a kind series of venues to allow our citizens to learn about and experience our history. The museum's ability to share our history with other museums and to borrow items from those museums provides an even broader experience for our citizens. Once closed, the museum's reputation will be damaged and not easily repaired. Consider the following:
  - a. Would you consider donating your money to a cause that cannot guarantee the complete support of its sponsor? Remember, one of the most successful aspects of our museum is that it has found sources of funding other than our tax dollars.
  - b. As a research or museum professional, would you consider working for an organization in this situation? Would you leave a professional, challenging environment to join a museum that has been closed by the state that supposedly support it?
  - c. As a museum director, would you consider loaning valuable artifacts to another museum that operates at the whim of the governor?

In summary, I believe the savings are insignificant. I believe that the financial cost of maintaining closed facilities and the potential liabilities to be incurred have been greatly under-valued. I believe that unless the museum remains closed for at least one year, the savings projected cannot occur. I believe that any closing will severely damage the museum's ability to function as a world class organization and the longer it is closed, the more severe will be the damage. I believe that closing the Illinois State Museum would represent a very poor financial decision and be an incredibly damaging blow to the preservation of our history and our cultural heritage.

I encourage the entire Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to oppose this proposal and to speak out strongly and firmly in opposition to it.

Respectfully,

*Harry Mitchell*

Harry Mitchell

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Please! Do not shut down our Illinois State Museums! Everything does not come down to money..especially our history.

Nancy Blackburn

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Hello,

My name is Renee Walker and I am seriously opposed to the closure of the Illinois State Museum and related facilities. It is a priceless resource and it is an egregious insult to even consider closing this valuable public resource.

Best, Renee Walker, Ph. D. Archaeologist

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This is devastating, no one in their right mind would do such a thing. These facilities draw tourism, dollars and further the education of all that visit them.

Rauner should be impeached! He does not have the state of Illinois residents, schools, school children, the elderly, or health care for us in mind. He needs to be the one cut-not our programs.

One good thing, he will only serve one term, if he makes that long. What a disgusting mess he has created. I'd bet you do not vote for him again. We should send him back to Chicago and stay there, we do not want anymore of his ploys or his budget cuts. Lets cut his wages, increase his taxes, and make him pay his way. Lets start at the top first. Let him see how it feels.

We worked all of our lives to receive a fair and just pension and we have earned it. It is not his to take away. Stay out of our retirement or let the numbers get into Rauner's business, pension, Social Security and anything else we can do to strip him of. Let's see how he likes it and how fair it is.

He is not for the working class or the middle class, he is just for himself and Chicago. Send the idiot back to Chicago!

Judith E Welge

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I strongly oppose closing the Illinois State Museum, too much would be lost and never recovered. The well qualified employees would be lost, many would leave the state for other museums and schools. So much would be lost in education and entertainment for children and adults. We should have some enjoyment out of the taxes we pay and the State Museum is a good example. The State Museum is available to everyone where so much of our tax dollar is used for only a particular group of people. The collections go back to 1877, with closure many would be returned and lost and all those years of work lost.

I am a Illinois State Museum member and also 1877 Fund member, I feel the Illinois State Museum is so worthwhile for everyone that closure should never be considered.

Sincerely,

Mary Blumle

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I am a proud member of the Illinois State Museum society. I chose to join because my children have benefited so much from the invaluable educational outreach the museum provides. This summer alone, we participated in the museum summer camp, the Bob Steffan movie program, and the summer passport program. We also love the year round Saturday programs and special events the museum provides the community, as well as the outstanding play museum the citizens of this state have helped to finance. It is an amazing resource for families.

Educational outreach aside, the museum provides more to the state of Illinois. It safe guards our state history and artifacts. Without the museum, all of this history would be lost. Without the museum open to the public, the opportunity for our citizens to take part in learning and understanding our heritage is gone.

How can we draw people to live in and visit our state if we cannibalize and squander all our precious resources and treasures? Once state resources such as our state museum are gone, they are lost to us forever. Please don't destroy them for generations to come because of political squabbling. You, the members of the government, are the caretakers of this wonderful treasure. Don't let it be destroyed on your watch. The Illinois State Museum has provided 138 years of exemplary service for the citizens of this state. The thought of its closure breaks my heart, and the hearts of countless others, especially the children of this state.

Elise Ransdell

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Dear Commission Members:

As a member of the American Quaternary Association (AMQUA) and former Marine Geoscience Councilor for AMQUA, I am writing to express my dismay over the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISMS is an invaluable cultural and scientific treasure of the State of Illinois. The collections there were granted to the state for the betterment of its people and should remain accessible for posterity.

Please work with Governor Rauner of the State of Illinois and the Legislature to figure other ways to address your budgetary question.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Ortiz

~~~~~  
Dr. Joseph D. Ortiz
Professor, Department of Geology
Graduate Coordinator
Ohio Space Grant Consortium Campus Representative

THE ILLINOIS MUSEUMS WOULD NOT HAVE TO CLOSE IF THE DEMOCRATS WOULD GIVE ALTERNATE BUDGET CUTS. BUT THEY JUST BLAME EVERY ONE ELSE FOR THEIR TAX AND SPEND POLICIES. THE GOVERNOR IS VERY LAX POINTING THIS OUT TO THE PUBLIC.

Don Majerus

To whom it may concern,

I urge you to request that Governor Rauner reconsider his suggestion to close the Illinois State Museum and its branches. The Museum is a great resource for education and research and is well worth its cost.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Gehrt
Quincy, IL

I'm not arguing the value of our museums but this state is drowning in debt and we can't agree to cut ANYTHING! We can't even pass a balanced budget. Close the museums and anything else that is unnecessary until we get our fiscal house in order! Wake up!

Thanks,
Larry Williams

I have to live within my budget and make some changes that I would rather not do - but I can't pay my expenses unless I do. Illinois is in terrible shape and to keep coming back to taxpayers to get more to spend is killing the middle class (if there really is one left). Balance your budget.

Larry Schwarz

My son's grandfather worked in Springfield, but I'm not sure in which building. He was employed by the State government. His name was Joseph Carvajal, and he was probably born in the 1920's?

The sad news about the possible closure of this branch of the Illinois State Museum makes me want to rush right down to Springfield with my son before the knowledge and experience become obsolete.

I hope there is found a way to keep all our historic places alive and available for all generation's education.

Wisdom is acquired from studying where we have come from. This museum tells the story of Illinois, I would imagine. Planning my road trip now to find out before it's too late!

Sincerely,
Dona Nunn Hildebrandt

Do not close the great place. The cost to run it is minimal. I sure there are far more places to close that are much more costly. How about reducing the legislatures perks and salaries and pensions, for one!

Lawrence Kreczmer

I don't feel that closing the museum's is solving the budgets problem. I would like to know where all the taxes we pay is going. If they would not spend the teachers retirement fund etc . The government needs to be held accountable just like the rest of us. Live within your means. The people of Illinois are sick of it. No wonder people move out of state.

Karen Schlueter

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a scientist and educator, I am deeply concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System and against it. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a superb reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance. In particular, Dr. Eric Grimm is internationally recognized as an eminent leader in our field of paleoclimatology. People all across the world actually know of the fine research done by staff at the ISM, rely upon the services provided by its staff, and will mourn the closure of the ISM. It that the image that you wish to present of Illinois internationally, a place where scientific knowledge is shut-down?

Furthermore, the ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeannine-Marie St-Jacques, PhD

University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

The city of Lockport has the Illinois National Musuem and it's adjoining gallery to provide a wealth of culture and endorse creativity and to champion the arts. Why are you asking to close a museum that provides a history of art in our great nation to our growing and impressionable youth? Why can we not be like our European counterparts who value the history of their country and culture and preserve the arts in music, sculpture and the arts for posterity? Why must we be a nation that does not attach value to the things that make us better and a nation that teaches through our rich history other younger countries the value of creativity innovation and imagination?

Please find a way as a government not to nickel and dime people and cut back on things that are not valuable to what we leave behind to our children. Let's think in longterm scope and not just up to the ends.of our nose. Think about YOUR children when thinking about cut backs. Stop overpaying government and federal officials and serve the public who endorses you.

Sincerely

Maha Hakim
A citizen of the United States of America

I oppose the closure of ANY museum. There is much to be learned from our past...
Sequestering our history is unthinkable!!!
Thank you,
David James Ginople

With the current status of State Finances our first concerns should be the Safety and Education of state residents. All other items should be reviewed in detail before current funding or in some case any funding should be considered.

Until steps are taken to return our state to a reasonable financial status, any state museums should operate on interance fees only, and should not exist on Tax Dollars.

Russel L Jones

Please reconsider closing the Illinois State Museum in Lockport. Private investors are improving the area, and bringing more value to the Museum itself (I recently discovered the museum thanks to the new Ember's Social Club). Closure would be a setback for the area.

Thank You
Jason Barrett

To the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

I urge you to keep the Illinois State Museum system up and running. This valuable resource serves the *people* of Illinois and is a valuable investment and resource for the children and adults of our state. To close this museum system is like Isis destroying the artifacts in Iraq. These artifacts of our history cannot be replaced or the museum reconfigured. Destroying our heritage and history will not solve the issues of the state budget.

I urge you to keep our history and arts alive and well. They generate income, jobs and security for the state of Illinois!

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this important issue for our state.

Best,
Cheri Reif Naselli

I have been to this gallery. I was not impressed. It is a "showplace" for young, talented and untalented artists to display their works. Now, I ask you, why would the State of Illinois spent any money on this when we have more pressing issues at hand? Close it down, permanently.

Kathy Carter

Please do not close the ISM. We need this for the children of Illinois and the future of our state to grow.

Milton Rivera.

The Illinois State Museum is one of the best things going in this state, and it should be kept open. It is a relatively small part of the budget.

As a retiree, I would be willing to pay tax on my income in order for the state to continue to provide necessary services plus important ones such as the museum and the State Library.

JoAnn Potenziani, Joliet

If you cant raise \$ 200,000 to keep it open - shame on you! That means the interest amongst those that could be benefactors is very low. If it closes-move the artifacts to the main museum.

James Ness

I was born, raised, educated, and employed in Illinois. I have found and recorded hundreds of archaeological sites in Illinois. The decision to close the Illinois State Museum will palce the museum in non-compliance with federal laws (NAGPRA, ARPA), resulting potentially in civil penalties, and violate signed agreements with federal agencies (e.g., Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service). It will also violate state laws (e.g., the Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act).

--

William Green, Ph.D., RPA
James E. Lockwood Jr. Director, Logan Museum of Anthropology
Beloit College
Beloit, WI 53511 USA

Please help to save not cut the IL State Museum. As an educator it is important to me to have quality places close by that students can use, participate in activities, and even work there as older youth. Cutting the approx. 17 million dollars the museum brings to the city of Springfield is only going to create greater economic problems for the people of IL.

Please address the problems IL faces without creating greater problems for the middle class tax payer.

Thank you,

Cathy Turner

As much as I would like to keep the museum open I strongly believe that at this time there are other much more things to spend our limited money on. Close the museum (reopen, if possible, when the budget crisis is under control).

Janice Merten

Please work to keep ISM open to the public. A part-time schedule might help to reduce cost and still maintain the artifacts and educational opportunities for all to enjoy.

Margaret Parish

To whom it may concern:

In addition to its service as a great educational institution, the Illinois State Museum (ISM) is one of the best scientific institutions of its kind in the United States. Although I no longer live in Illinois, I grew up in Illinois and visited the museum on a couple occasions with my family, once in the late 1950s and again in the early 1960s. It was tough to do so back then since my father worked all the time, we had only one automobile, and we lived in the country. Even so, my mother took us there during summertime on Greyhound buses.

After I obtained my BA from SIU-Edwardsville (1974) and my MA and PhD from SIU-Carbondale (1977 and 1984, respectively), I obtained a job in the St. Louis area. Despite living in Florissant, Missouri for several years, I took my Cub Scout and later Webelos dens twice on roundtrip Amtrak train rides from Alton to Springfield, where we again visited the Illinois State Museum and a few historic sites within walking distance.

Finally, I recently donated some of my own archaeological site collections (from destroyed sites) to the ISM because I was certain they would have a good home. I made these collections in southern St. Clair County as a youth growing up along the bluffs of the Mississippi River. Will my collections be available in the future for other researchers as I had hoped?

Today, I have professional contacts throughout the US and am quite knowledgeable of what other states have or do not have. With respect to science and research, the ISM is unrivaled by few other state organizations in this country. The ISM has a great bunch of scientists and educators, starting with ISM Director Dr. Bonnie Styles. People throughout the US, including myself, look often to ISM for staff assistance and as a model institution and organization. Many federal and state agencies also do the same.

During the past 30 years, I have undertaken research on occasion at the collections facility and know many of the people on the potential chopping block. Earlier this year before the ISM was targeted for closure, the banquet speaker at the Missouri Archaeological Society's annual meeting was Dr. Michael Wiant, Director of the Dickson Mounds Museum. He gave a wonderful lecture to about 150 people. I wish I could speak as eloquently. Our banquet speaker next year is a senior researcher at the Smithsonian, Dr. Douglas W. Owsley. We try to get the best for our banquets and Dr. Wiant is in the same league as many people at our national museum. But, I know there are others at the ISM of equal status in many scientific fields, not just in archaeology.

I have also come to know Dr. R. Bruce McMillan since his retirement as director of the ISM for several decades. He now lives in Columbia, Missouri, and I see him at least once or twice a year. I know very few people of such outstanding character as Dr. McMillan, who can be acknowledged for making the ISM the great institution that it is today.

It saddens me to think that the ISM is being targeted for closure or used as a pawn in a budgeting game by the governor. I work in an educational institution, so I am biased. But, it seems that the education of our citizenry continues to fall further and further behind other countries as our politicians target education and science for deeper and deeper cuts.

I would like my written statement against the closing of the ISM to be filed, and I would like confirmation that my email has been received and so treated.

Sincerely,
Neal H. Lopinot, Ph.D.
Director & Research Professor
Secretary, Missouri Archaeological Society

Center for Archaeological Research
Missouri State University
901 South National Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65897

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

This system is nationally accredited and internationally renowned, and it contributes greatly to our state's economy and cultural heritage.

Closing the state museum system makes no economic sense. If the State shuts the museums, the \$33 million in economic impact they generate annually will disappear, taking jobs with it. The museums will lay off 68 workers. Employees of small businesses that rely on museum and museum visitor spending will find their jobs at risk.

Closing the museums will mean eliminating one of our state's key economic drivers. Museums are the top reason tourists visit Illinois, and our state museum system alone attracts over 386,000 visitors each year.

The proposed closure will provide only meager savings, if any. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources projects \$4.8 million in annual savings. This amount equals just 1/10 of 1% of the state's projected deficit. Moreover, the estimated savings do not include the high costs of the closure process, such as returning millions of objects the museums have under their care as part of agreements with the federal government and other entities. The State will also lose \$2 million in active federal grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation.

I have quantified the significant economic harm that will result, but there will also be damage that is immeasurable. The museums' collection of 13.5 million objects helps us understand and appreciate the arts, nature, cultural diversity, and our shared heritage. The proposed closure will prevent over 2,300 teachers and 40,000 students each year from accessing these learning opportunities.

I urge the Commission to countermand the Governor's directive to implement this closure, and I ask that you do all that you can to keep the Illinois State Museum System open, free, and accessible to the people of Illinois.

Respectfully,
[include your name here]

SANDRA MANESKY
4233 N. BROADWAY
APT. 304
CHICAGO, IL 60613

As a concerned citizen and voter, I am very concerned about the State of Illinois. Along with Representative Emily McAsey, Senator Pat McGuire, and Mayor Steve Streit of Lockport, I am disappointed and disheartened that the State of Illinois would close an important treasure of Lockport in closing the Lockport's Gallery of the Illinois State Museum. Lockport is an historic town built on workers that established the I & M Canal. How can people learn from our deep history when they are not exposed to it? Without museums and people willing to tell the story of history, history will be forgotten. As Socrates, Winston Churchill, and George Santayana stated, *"Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it!"* I hope that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability and Governor Bruce Rauner can see the value of history and keep the Museums open.

Sincerely,
Maureen Bober
Voter, Educator, and Parent

It is such a shame that the kind of public program the museum and gallery represent, gets caught in Governor Rauner's attempt to gut the rights of unions to collective bargaining and fair wages and other non-budget issues. The museum and gallery are being held hostage to Rauner's Turnaround Agenda which is really not about economic growth but about him enacting his ideology on the rest of Illinois' citizens. It is extortion really. It needs to stop.

And the museum and gallery need to be saved from his shenanigans.

Patricia Herrmann
1077 Creekside Drive
Wheaton, IL 60189

Please don't

Gloria Camcam

To Whom it May Concern:

I write today to express my concern at the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum. This closure would impact not only the immediate neighborhoods in which these facilities are located but the entire state--indeed, it would impact the entire country.

Thousands of Illinois students rely on the State Museum as their best, and sometimes only, means to interact with history outside of a textbook. This is a valuable educational resource of which those students should not be deprived. Additionally, the State Museum houses *millions* of artifacts, and its closure would threaten future access to those artifacts. Once again, this has a national effect--museums from around the nation are already beginning to return loaned objects that might never again be seen by the public. The museum for which I work, the McLean County Museum of History, is has been affected by the State Museum's need to get artifacts into storage in preparation for the shutdown. Moreover, the Illinois State Museum would lose its accreditation, which would take years to re-earn if the Museum reopens. And even if the Museum does get re-accredited, the damage to our state's reputation would already be done. Last but definitely not least, dozens of people would lose their jobs--hundreds if every museum in the state system gets closed.

Not only are the ramifications of closure deplorable, so is the reasoning behind the closure. The argument that the museum system is one of the only things that hasn't already faced a budget cut, and therefore must be closed, is *incredibly* disingenuous for two reasons. First, the Museum has been cutting back on staff for years--people have been retiring or getting let go, and their positions have never been filled since. The money not spent on those salaries qualifies as a budget cut. Second, to the best of my knowledge *no* alternatives have been considered. There's been no talk of charging admission, no talk of reducing staff rather than closing, nothing. The Museum is being held hostage in a political game of chicken, and Illinois citizens are the ones who will pay the price. If this really, truly is a budget issue and not a game of chicken, there are *literally dozens of alternatives* to consider before closure.

The closure of the Illinois State Museum will do irreparable damage to the education, culture and reputation of our great state, Please reconsider the closure and keep our Museum open.

Respectfully,
Lauren Lacy

Please reconsider your desire to close The Illinois State Museum and its Lockport Gallery. It always seems to be the best way to aggravate the public is to end funding that really has meaning to projects that people find worthwhile. Why not try something new like reduce your personal spending benefits that go with your jobs. Try cutting back on projects of little value or benefit.

Thank You,

John Downes

July 15, 2015

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
State of Illinois

From: Beverley A. Smith, Ph.D.

My Position: Opponent of Closure

Type of Testimony: Written Statement Filed

Reasons:

- The Illinois State Museum has a reputation for excellence and my every professional contact with their personnel, from the security guard to the Director, has been without peer. My most recent visit was in January of 2015. ISM is an asset in the educational & research community.
- I live near the city of Detroit, which has just come out of the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history and has done so with the Historical Museum and Archives, Science Museum, Museum of African American History, and the Detroit Institute of Arts intact. (Indeed, the only controversy involved certain DIA paintings that some greedy banker/creditors wanted, but did not get, for their personal offices). It's a low bar if you can't do as well as Detroit!
- ISM generates money for the community and nearby businesses. Closure is fiscally stupid. What's next? President Lincoln's log cabin will make a great bonfire (and you'll save \$ by turning off the street lights surrounding it, at least while it burns!).
- \$4.9 million – are you kidding! Closing the state museum sends the message that the State of Illinois is pitiful and poor. Does this generate confidence to attract new businesses? What corporation wants to relocate families to a State that maintains it can't afford to keep its museum open?
- The governor ran on a platform of "pro-education", according to his official campaign website. Why are he and his fellow legislators drinking this Kool-Aid? I have noticed that politicians make decisions based on the short-term (for re-election) and long-term (for their legacy) reasons. The Governor and his supporters may think that education and history are not worth the expense (compared to a short-term payoff in happy tax-dodging rich people), but they can't remove themselves from history; do they really want their long-term legacy to be the Governor and Legislature who destroyed this museum?
- Museums are a public trust. Countless people have donated money to the ISM for its continued success and have entrusted it with heirlooms and artifacts for care, curation, and study. Are you seriously trying to tell us that these many

citizens are misguided, that their carefully considered decisions are not worthy, and their valued items should be relegated to some black hole of inaccessible storage? Who do you think elected you?

- Some of the finest and most dedicated researchers in the country have been associated with the ISM – archaeologists, paleontologists, geomorphologists, and others have devoted (some continuing) their professional intellect, passion, and energy to a greater knowledge so that, when an Illinois school child has a question about the cultural or natural history of her/his state, there is someone who can answer it!
- Please envision a young family coming to the Museum for a day of fun and learning. If this insanity occurs, at least make sure that the sign on the locked door has a list of the names of all the elected officials, starting with Governor Rauner, responsible for the family's disappointment. They'll know who not to vote for the next time. Too bad it will be too late.

Beverley A. Smith, Ph.D

Dear Governor Rauner,

I'm writing about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. As a scientist and educator I understand how important museum collections are for scientific research and education. In my own field, the Illinois State Museum System in particular has been a world leader in compiling data on Pleistocene paleontology, and sharing those data with other researchers. Your State Museum collections are critical resources, not only for Illinois citizens but for researchers all over the world.

Museum curators are the stewards of earth history and human history. It is vitally important for this generation and future generations that museum collections be properly maintained and expanded. I hope you can find a way to avoid the closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Rowland
Professor of Geology
University of Nevada Las Vegas

I am very upset that the governor is considering closing a number of state run museums.

Museums attract tourists, teach our children, and stimulate the economy.

To permanently close these institutions would hurt local businesses, deter tourism, and be a negative strike against our state.

Keep all of our state museums open!

Thank you,

Matthew Alschuler
PO Box 325
Warren, IL 61087

I know this is not what you wanted to hear but I think some things must stop and some entitlements for people must be cut. We are in a really tuff place and has gone on too long. I would be in real trouble if I ran my check book like Springfield does. If this needs to be closed,I am all for it. Sorry.

Linda Eipers

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to strongly urge you to re-consider the possible action of closing the Illinois State Museum branch in Lockport, Illinois. The museum has played a big part in the revitalizing of the Lockport community since a terrible economic downturn following the closure of refinery work in the community. It is not solely supported by the state for its operations, and is worthy of being allowed to carry on its worthy contributions to the area.

Sincerely,
Susan Rains
Joliet, Illinois

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of the State of Illinois and a former principal at the Lockport Township High School and as a retired Superintendent of the Joliet Township High Schools, I wholeheartedly support the comments made by State Senator Patrick McGuire on the Senate floor on Monday in regards to the closing of the Illinois State Museum and the Lockport Gallery.

The educational value of the State Museum in general, and specifically, the Lockport Gallery is not measurable in mere dollars and cents. Thousands of Illinois residents, both school aged children and adults have benefitted from both institutions.

Please encourage Governor Rauner to reverse his position to close the Illinois State Museum.

James H. Clark
1250 S. Michigan Avenue
Apt. 2606
Chicago, IL 60605

Consider the \$6.3 million annual budget of the main museum in Springfield and its five branches: the museum's 13.5 million historical artifacts are already paid for, already in hand and possess great educational and research value. Rarely is something essential a bargain, but the Illinois State Museum truly is.

The state museum's Lockport branch in the historic Norton Building has become the "hub" of an emerging arts and museum district in Lockport. The Lockport Gallery is a genuine partnership between government, donors and the private sector. It is garnering tangible benefits for the city of Lockport and the state of Illinois. The state's annual cost to operate the Lockport Gallery is approximately \$200,000.

It is worth considering and comparing the current renovation spurt in downtown Lockport with the economic slide the city faced after the closing of the Texaco refinery in 1981, where my great-grandfather and grandfather both worked. This is in no small part thanks to the Lockport branch of the Illinois State Museum.

Carol Lapetino

The Illinois State Museum needs to stay open and supported. It's important to the economic health of Lockport and the surrounding area.

Helen Valantinas
Shorewood, IL 60404

I am writing today to plead for the life of the Illinois State Museum.

The Museum is one of our state's most valuable and cherished institutions. Hundreds of scholars, researchers, educators, curators, and many others have worked tirelessly over many decades to create this brilliant Museum. To lose the Museum and its world-class staff would be an educational and scientific catastrophe.

It's hard to imagine that anyone could even consider closing the Museum. I would have thought that the only thing that could close the Museum would be an enemy bomb explosion, or perhaps a terrible natural disaster. It is incredible that rational human beings who have been elected to serve the citizens of Illinois would voluntarily conceive of closing the Museum.

My family and I are among the many thousands who have benefitted greatly from our interactions with the Museum. We have attended countless exhibits, gallery talks, brown bag lunches, lectures, and scientific presentations. For our family, the Museum has been a rich source of knowledge and involvement with the scientific and artistic world around us.

To provide a sense of what the Museum has meant to just one person, I would like to quote my son, Josh Jacobson. Josh grew up in Springfield, attending local public schools and participating in many Museum activities. Today, Josh is forty years old and Director of Product Management at a major internet company in Silicon Valley, where he designs products that are used all over the world. The Museum was an important part of his education and inspiration.

Josh wrote this testimony:

"The Illinois State Museum played a major part in shaping my understanding of history, local heritage, and design. From the early days digging for artifacts in the children's room (with so many wonderful activities!), through all the field trips for school, to attending the Bauhaus art camp in high school (I still have my paintings from that week up on the wall!). And I certainly can't forget witnessing the creation of the world-class Peoples of the Past exhibit, where the staff not only taught us about the design techniques of creating the exhibit, but just seeing the exhibit itself was a powerful way to understand what Illinois was like generations ago.

"I have so many other wonderful memories and lessons from this wonderful institution that should always be a part of Illinois for all generations. Please consider this as you try to balance temporary political goals with the long-term health and vitality of Illinois' culture and education."

For the future of us all, please keep the Illinois State Museum open!

Thank you.

Doranne Jacobson
2617 Clifton Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

I'm sure all the facilities are valuable assets to the public. One in particular we visit and use: Dickson Mds Museum. It offers many programs for children & adults. Its exhibits are outstanding including the one-room school on its grounds. Our family visits there for its reunions on a regular basis using the building and park nearby. Wonderful and beautiful area as well as educational and historical ! It needs to be kept open.

Mr. & Mrs Shelby Lightle, P O Box 98, Lostant, IL 61334

While I agree that the state of Illinois needs austerity measures, I hope that the State Museum will remain open and operating. I think we can get the money elsewhere.

Elizabeth A Wolszon
1357 S Plymouth Ct.
Chicago, IL 60605

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

I am distressed that permanent closure of our state museums is being considered by Gov. Rauner. Museums are treasures to the community. Museums provide education by partnering with schools. They enhance communities and attract business by attracting visitors. Travelers usually include a museum visit when they go to a city for vacation.

Museums are a value to the public and are worthy of public support in the form of tax dollars. The cost of visiting museums needs to be kept minimal so that all citizens can enjoy them. I think of museums much like libraries as important community resources.

Governor Rauner seems to want to outdo our neighbor in Wisconsin. It is a mistake. He is caught up in an ideological meme that is harmful to our state. Please fight to keep our museums open.

Thank you,

Judy Bloom

Closure of the Illinois State Museum will result in an enormous loss of brainpower, research potential, and research-related funding opportunities for the State of Illinois. It is a short-sighted and ill-founded move that will cost Illinois much more in the long run than the funds it temporarily gains through the closure.

Adrienne Daggett

July 16, 2015

Dear Commission Members,

As a parent, grandparent and citizen tax payer, I ask this Commission to oppose closure of the Illinois State Museum. This museum has long provided great value to Illinois citizens, young and old. My children and grandchildren have enjoyed many visits to the museum over the past 40 years, as have my husband and I. We hope to continue to share this joy with our grandchildren and, God willing, our great-grandchildren for many more years to come.

Allowing the Illinois State Museum to close would be a tragic and unforgiveable mistake.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. DeLuka

Barbara J. DeLuka
895 Gooseneck Trail
Sherman, Illinois 62684

No one from the Illinois government or museum has contacted any of the tribes with remains, sites, artifacts, and items of cultural patrimony that are under threat, with a possible threat to and violation of federal law under NAGPRA. We Ioway for example have NAGPRA concerns there.

Lance Foster
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
3345 B Thrasher Rd
White Cloud KS 66094
USA

I have recently learned that the State of Illinois is considering closing the state museum system facilities due to budgetary considerations. I am writing to oppose this action. The state museums afford an opportunity to advance knowledge of the rich natural, historical and cultural heritage of our state and to place the resources within a national and worldwide context. The museum exhibits inspire an appreciation of our state heritage and foster an attitude of stewardship towards these resources. The museum displays enrich the lives of people of all ages and are marvelous teaching tools to the young people of the state. Governor Rauner is a proponent of quality education and has recently proposed increasing funding for education. It seems that the learning environment provided by the museums would be a part of his overall support for education in the State of Illinois.

I hope that the legislature considers the value of the museum system when budgetary decisions are made and that the museums remain open. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joan Unsicker
1202 South Hershey Road
Bloomington, IL 61704309-824-6321

To Whom it May Concern,

I wish to protest against the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum and associated facilities. Illinois is the true heartland of our nation, and any reader of history knows this to be true. The ISM is the guardian of the material record of the state's transformative role and cultural contribution through its diverse peoples and places. The ISM is also a research facility and an educational institution that has been critical to generations of historians, archaeologists, journalists, and others, not to leave out teachers and students.

As a permanent resident of Michigan, the idea of closing the ISM is reminiscent of the proposed closing of the Detroit Institute of Arts (and sale of collections) during the city's bankruptcy negotiations. The DIA plan was abandoned due to public outcry and the realization that a short term partial solution to serious economic problems would have permanent devastating consequences to the future of the city and the State of Michigan. The DIA, having survived, has since become an engine for revitalization in the city, with new exhibits drawing thousands who stay at hotels, visit other venues and spend money.

The Illinois State Museum is a gem. Closing it is short-sighted, unproductive, and will have an effect opposite of the one your governor desires.

Thank you,

Kathryn Parker
Consulting Archaeobotanist
4989 East Burt Lake Rd.
Cheboygan, MI 49721

I write to express my deep concern about the risk of closures at the Illinois State Museum System. I am a university academic working in at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland. Despite such a large geographical remove from Illinois, the proposed closure will impact directly on my research and that of others in my research lab. We research fossil plant distributions and rely on data feeds directly from Springfield. The Illinois State Museum System is a world class institution with a global reach and so any initiatives to diminish their activity will have significant consequences for research and outreach far beyond Illinois. I urge you to seriously reconsider this action and to celebrate the fantastic contribution that the Illinois State Museum System makes to global research and education.

Yours sincerely,
Professor Fraser Mitchell
Head of the School of Natural Sciences
Trinity College Dublin
Dublin 2
Ireland

To whom it may concern,

The Illinois State Museum maintains a vital collection of Illinois history which is irreplaceable. It welcomes tens of thousands of school children each year for irreplaceable education about their state's history and prehistory through school visits, and has a significant [economic impact on the Illinois economy](#). This closing will also certainly negatively impact research facilities in many other Midwestern states with which these museums have interacted cooperatively.

I urge you to reconsider closing these important museums and research facilities!

Ann Zinn
Past President of the Michigan Archaeological Society
Ann.Zinn@umich.edu

The state museums bring in more money than they cost to operate. If the museums are closed, only 4.8 million dollars would be saved, but the Springfield museum alone brings in an estimated 17 million dollars a year in revenue. The museums make money for the cash-strapped state of Illinois.

Aside from the money that the museums generate, the museums have a cultural, scientific, and artistic value that is so much greater than the few million dollars that it costs to operate them.

When the state needs money, I would much prefer to pay higher sales tax, tolls, gasoline tax, and/or income tax than to see the museums be closed.

Thank you,
Sue Dix
Illinois Artisan
Member of the Illinois State Museum Society

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a *former resident of Jacksonville, Illinois and daughter of devoted ISM volunteer, Dean Farmer.*

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed:

As a child, visits Illinois State Museums instilled a sense of understanding and pride the the region and its inhabitants. I am heartbroken at the thought that children and adults might be denied the chance to see the displays which moved me and have served as important tools for learning and entertainment throughout my life. There is no "virtual world" equal to seeing scale of ancient mammal bones, the textures of the fur and feathers of other native creatures, or the details in the exquisite miniature rooms.

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.
-
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise. on a computer screen or
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
-
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
-
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will

jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.

-
- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

YOUTH EDUCATION

- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts “Saturplay,” a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM’s summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.
-
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.
-
- Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

NUMBERS

- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.
Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors Dickson Mounds in
Lewistown: 50,000 visitors Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors Southern Illinois Art Gallery near
Sesser: 18,000 visitors Springfield: 200,000 visitors
 - Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.
 -
 - ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.
 -
 - The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.
 -
- For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.
L. Michelle Law

I recently have heard there is some consideration being given to closing the Illinois State Museum. This is a concern and would be a great loss to the State of Illinois and the City of Springfield.

Recently my wife and I took our a nephew and 2 nieces, along with my father-in-law, for a four day trip to Springfield to visit the Lincoln Sites and the Illinois State Museum from Michigan and Wisconsin. The museum was as important in our destination choices as were the Lincoln National Parks. The kids room was perfect for the youngest in our group and the history was perfect for the Middle School ages in the group. If the museum was not there, we would have shortened our trip into Illinois and moved on elsewhere. I should note that while in Springfield we payed to stay in a KOA, bought several gift items, bought food and other supplies from local stores and restaurants.

Several years ago we made a similar trip in which we stopped at Dickson Mounds Museum. These Museums make the ability to for families to make educational trips during the summer from other states more valuable.

Dan Goatley
6021 Drumheller Rd.
Bath, Mi 48808

Dear Illinois State Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, My name is Kelly Monday, and as a member of the Illinois Artisan Program, I was saddened to experience the Museum Gallery closings in Chicago, Springfield and Whittington, as they were recently the only outlet for my work (jewelry). They allowed me to work at home (to be with my daughter) while pursuing my art. When I learned of the entire Museum system being at risk of closure, however, I was shocked. I oppose a decision of closure because to sacrifice pieces of our state history for a budget deficit is short-sighted. These artifacts and stories serve to educate the children of Illinois and people of our country. The museums and galleries also provide local jobs and goods made in Illinois. It seems reckless to proceed with closures when what our state needs is a stronger economic platform that can support the very important mission and programs of the Illinois State Museum system. Please reconsider this decision. Thank you.

Kelly Monday

The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to the State of Illinois. As a resident of the State of Michigan and a cultural heritage professional, I was deeply concerned when proposals were made a few years ago to close our own Michigan Historical Center. Thankfully, our government leaders found a way to preserve this important cultural resource and center of learning for our state. The state of Illinois should do the same.

Closing the Illinois State Museum not only sets a dangerous precedent for cultural institutions in the region fighting to stay open; it also sends the wrong message to the Illinois public. It shows that Illinois's leaders do not consider the preservation of its culture and history a priority. That they do not see the educational value of the Museum for the public, or the potential for future historical research the Museum provides, as worth protecting. That they are shortsighted, and have little concern for the experiential learning opportunities that will be deprived future generations.

Shuttering a 138-year-old Museum will do very little to close a \$4 billion budget gap, and will take away a tremendous cultural resource from those who need it most. I am strongly opposed to the closing of the Illinois State Museum and wish for my opinion to be filed for the record.

Caroline Roberts

--

Caroline Roberts
Conservator, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology
University of Michigan

Dear Commission Members:

It is with a feeling of great disbelief that I have recently read about the possibility of the state of Illinois closing down the Illinois State Museum and its other facilities throughout the state. As a person who was born and raised in DeKalb, IL, I could not believe that Illinois would be so feckless and so short-sighted as to close one of the state's gems. I can only believe that you do not recognize the importance of this institution and the work that it does in education, scientific research, tourism, and collections preservation for the citizens of the world today and into the future.

Are you aware, for instance, that surveys have shown over and over again that the public recognizes museums to be the first and best place for them to receive ACCURATE and authentic information. This is over and above information received from the net, newspapers, books, television and other social media. Museums are a place of multi-generational learning, where people from seniors to pre-schoolers can learn in a safe place according to their own best method of learning (since Museums, including the IL State Museum, use a variety of educational methods to get their lessons across to their publics). Your Illinois State Museum does all of this and more. It has an international reputation for scholarship and the quality of its collections and is used, on an annual basis, by scholars all over the world whether they are from universities or elementary schools. I, myself, have been fortunate to study some of the the

archeological collections of the ISM, as I work with several other scholars to untangle the mysteries of the Hopewell culture.

And, of course, the ISM stands as one of the major destinations for tourists coming to Springfield and to Illinois. Almost 200,000 visitors walked through the main museum's doors last year. Most of those people spend money in the city and in the state - this economic impact is not insignificant. Loss of these tourism dollars will ripple through the local economy, affecting businesses across the city. This impact will also be felt in the other locations where the ISM has a facility. I can't imagine Lewiston, for instance, with out the Dickson Mounds Museum. I was one of those schoolchildren who visited that museum as a child with my family - it was one of the major reasons that I ultimately went into the field of archeology and museums.

Finally, I have to worry about the irreplaceable collections held in the different ISM facilities. Closure of those facilities will endanger those many artifacts which are held in trust by the state of IL for the people of Illinois - both current and those citizens of the future. You abrogate your responsibilities should you so endanger those collections and expose them to theft, environmental problems, infestations, and more.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that you, The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability keep open the Illinois State Museum and all its facilities.

Ann L. Koski, Retired Director
Wisconsin State Historical Museum

Hello,

My name is Ivan Blevins. Although I reside in Michigan, I am very concerned to hear about the possible closing of the Illinois State Museum. Closing a museum such as this would not only have a negative effect locally, but also for other institutions from neighboring states who partner with the ISM on a regular basis. I implore you to reconsider this dreadful decision and keep this museum open to the public.

Thank you,
Ivan Blevins

My name is Diana Waren from Havana, IL. I oppose the closing of the Dickson Mound Museum and the Illinois State Museum. I first visited the Dickson Mounds Museum as a First Grader attending Cuba Elementary School. Dr. Dickson presented information about the Native American Cultures as he walked us around the museum. It made me have a deep love for the history and the people buried near where I was born and my people too lie buried. I am now a retired teacher and a volunteer at the museum. It is more important today under the direction of Dr. Michael Wiant to our community as a place to learn, meet and create opportunities to celebrate family and community functions. Please keep it open for the present citizens and their children and grandchildren. This is my written testimony.

Diana Waren

This museum is a state treasure that curates and shares the artifacts of Illinois' rich heritage. It is certainly the responsibility of the State of Illinois to fund and protect this institution, especially when it is joined in partnerships with local governments and private sources, as it is in Lockport. Does this governor really want to be known and remembered as the person who denied and tried to erase this state's historical heritage?
Do not close the Illinois State Museum!

Sincerely,

James Galbreath
6688 Foxtree Ave.
Woodridge IL 60517

This museum is a state treasure that curates and shares the artifacts of Illinois' rich heritage. It is certainly the responsibility of the State of Illinois to fund and protect this institution, especially when it is joined in partnerships with local governments and private sources, as it is in Lockport. Does this governor really want to be known and remembered as the person who denied and tried to erase this state's historical heritage?
Do not close the Illinois State Museum!

Sincerely,
James Galbreath
6688 Foxtree Ave.
Woodridge IL 60517

Dear Governor Rauner and Commission Members:

Admission to the Illinois State Museums is free, in contrast to most others, which are by now prohibitively expensive for many people. Strong arguments have been made for keeping the museums open based on the ways in which they make available to the public the history and culture of our regional world. I want to emphasize that they serve as a wonderful introduction, for many people, to the world of what museums can offer – a sort of “gateway drug” to culture and learning. Besides the high fees, the vast, famous institutions can be intimidating. The Illinois State Museums are hospitable havens that have actively welcomed the public (to the best of their ability, given the dwindling resources they have been provided with in recent years).

The staff (I’m mostly familiar with the Lockport and Chicago galleries) is knowledgeable and articulate. The (free!) events they organize in connection with the exhibits are a valuable – and rare – opportunity for the public to interact with the artists and historians.

Close the museums, and make even clearer that the priorities of the state now are private profit over a government and institutions "for the people".

Sincerely,
Rebecca Wolfram

The current Illinois budget crisis definitely requires taking a closer look at all expenditures, but closing the State's museums should not happen. The loyal and conscientious employees (and their families) rely on state-provided salary. Visitors (both in-state and from other states and nations) learn more about Illinois' history, culture, and geography through their visits. And in the case of art exhibits, state museums provide a valuable access point for all citizens, who find that art unites people, edifies their spirits, and provides recognition to those whose works are on display.

If implementing a modest admission fee would assist State finances, then do so. Raise vending machine prices, with the increase benefitting the museums. Institute a parking fee for the facilities. But do not make the horrible mistake of shuttering state museums! Citizens--and Illinois' visitors!--should not be deprived of the educational and cultural resources these museums provide. At a time when our society struggles with divisions, let Illinois' museums be a unifier for its people.

Sincerely,
Catherine L. Kloss
18505 Carpenter St.
Homewood, IL 60430

Every year or so, I visit Chicago to see friends (one who is an artist) and participate in the artistic and cultural bonanza that defines Chicago. I'm extremely disappointed to learn that your governor is closing down varied sites around town. This is unacceptable. Art is beauty, defined differently by different people, and it encompasses vastly disparate areas of visual, musical, sensual, museum, archeological, etc., types. Sadly, you are downgrading Chicago to a Cowtown with no culture.

Joan A. Marn, MS, RDN, LDN
Nutrition Matters!
8456 SW 114 Place

My name is Virginia Kondziolka.

I am a graphic designer who has worked on projects for various Illinois museums as well as an artist in the Illinois Artisans Program. I oppose closing the ISM and the Illinois Artisans Program for the reasons listed below:

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made. Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors; Dickson Mounds in Lewistown: 50,000 visitors; Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors; Southern Illinois Art Gallery near Sesser: 18,000; visitors Springfield: 200,000 visitors. Which is an amazing total of 385,000 visitors!

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Virginia Kondziolka

Greetings,

This communication is to put on record my opposition to the closing of the Illinois State Museum. The Museum is one of the crown jewels of Illinois and provides wonderful opportunities for the general public, students, and researchers to further their knowledge about Illinois history and prehistory.

The Illinois State Museum is a world-class facility. To close the Museum would be an embarrassment to the government of Illinois. We can do better; you can do better.

If a private monetary contribution to help keep the Museum open would help, then please feel to contact me.

Sincerely,

William F. Romain, Ph.D.
Director, The Ancient Earthworks Project

It is our sincere hope that the Governor, his cabinet directors and our representatives reconsider this Budget suggestion. Surely more creative ideas can be found that will not impede the success of this fine national institution. We whole heartily agree with the statement -- "the Museum is one of our States finest treasures. "

Dr. Glenn Dennis Campbell Phd
Christine Ramirez-Campbell
(Former ISM employees & current Museum Society Members)

Dear Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

Please reconsider the closing of the 5 Illinois State Museum facilities and the Illinois Artisans Program. These are important to our state's culture, history, and economy. There are a priceless artifacts in the museum's collection, which need to be preserved by our state and for our state.

While Governor Rauner, Speaker Madigan, and Senator Cullerton play their political games, a lot hangs in the balance for the residents of this state. Destroying our history by closing the museums and artisans' program would be a short-sighted mistake.

Thank you for considering my concerns on this matter.

Katherine Copenhaver
864 Brookside Lane
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 945-3403

I am writing in opposition to the closing of the Illinois State Museum Research and Collections Center. Their zooarchaeological collection is THE foremost comparative collection for archaeologists throughout the Great Lakes. At the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, we have made use of it many times during our long-running research project at Colonial Michilimackinac State Historic Park. Closing of this facility will impact ongoing research throughout the region. Please don't throw away this treasure under your stewardship.

Very truly yours,

Lynn L.M. Evans, Ph.D.
Curator of Archaeology
Mackinac State Historic Parks
P.O. Box 873
Mackinaw City, MI 49701
231-436-4100

We urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing a portion or all of the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System. The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall. Therefore, closing would not negatively impact the budget, but rather thousands of citizens, educational programs, events, and of course, jobs.

We are citizens and students of programs that take place at Dickson Mounds Museum, including the Illinois Valley Archaeology Society, Emiquon Corps of Discovery, and Hickory Ridge Concert Series. Also, Dickson Mounds partners with UIS and The Nature Conservancy, for land preservation and public awareness.

We oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure would mean losing accreditation which could take years to get back.

ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM would end access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere would jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.

ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure would jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.

The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, plus providing spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities. Dickson Mounds Museum, near Lewistown, attracted 50,000 visitors.

Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities.

We respectfully thank you, in advance, for your logical consideration and action in this regard.

Ann Doolen and Deane Doolen

To Whom It May Concern,

Please don't close the museums. You look like ISS destroying history. In fact I think that will be the headlines.

As an ex Illinois resident who now lives in Texas, even Texas wouldn't be as stupid as this. How can you destroy your citizens heritage?

Because of a field trip to Dickson Mounds as a kid I was introduced to a lifelong love and appreciation of Archeology.

Illinois is blessed with more pre historic history than any other state. For all of that to be wasted for the savings of a few million dollars is an a slap in the face to every living and dead Illinoisan.

I make a trip back there every year and visit Dickson Mounds and the ISM, I will no longer be making the trip if they are closed.

Thomas N. Bainter
Fort Worth Texas

Greetings,

This communication is to put on record my opposition to the closing of the Illinois State Museum. The Museum is one of the crown jewels of Illinois and provides wonderful opportunities for the general public, students, and researchers to further their knowledge about Illinois history and prehistory.

The Illinois State Museum is a world-class facility. To close the Museum would be an embarrassment to the government of Illinois. We can do better; you can do better.

Thank you,

Robert M. Hildebrand Jr.

To Whom It May Concern:

The closing of the 138-year-old Illinois State Museum would represent a great loss to the cultural vitality of our state.

The dedicated and professional staff is comprised of knowledgeable individuals whose contributions to their fields are recognized and respected. It is one of only five percent of museums accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Each site around the state offers the public cultural programming that broadens the horizons of the citizens of Illinois.

Closure will not only be costly for taxpayers but is a betrayal to those who have donated materials to the museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity.

A jewel like that Illinois State Museum (and its attending sites) should not summarily dismissed and thrown away when the cost of keeping this fine institution open represents a tiny 0.157 percent of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

I respectfully request that you recommend against this closure.

Thank you.

Judith Lloyd Klauba
George Klauba

I am writing to express my opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). Closing this facility would be detrimental to the people of Illinois because the ISM is not only a repository for priceless artifacts of Illinois history and heritage, an educational resource for countless citizens, college students, educators and school children, but it is also a means for tourism dollars to the regions in which the ISM serves. The closure will have negative impacts for many businesses and job loss and will have a minimal offset to the budget shortfall. Closing the ISM is a poor choice for balancing the budget.

Carla Hildebrand
Paducah KY

Hello, I am writing in response to subject closure. Closing museums is equivalent to putting locks on libraries and contributes to cultural stagnation. Museums display the one of a kind, once in a life time creative history of performing arts and lends to the sophisticated educational development of a child's mind in addition enriches diverse lives in communities. It scares me to think if this idea of closing museums will become a national trend.

Just when families need somewhere to go and visit as a vacation site, the State of Illinois wants to destroy their learning experiences. What better way than to take the children on a field trip to the museum and let them see artifacts from all over the world without getting on an airplane.

The State of South Carolina just went through all the removal of the Civil War Battle flag and stated they would place it in a museum with the true and real story about it existence, but if it is in a museum that might close well what good is saving the historical information for our posterity. That display might become a traveling exhibit but if there are no museums for the event the learning opportunity will be lost.

So far, this looks as if it will only affect the State of Illinois but eventually I fear other states will join the bandwagon in an attempt to save money. This is just as criminal and insane as ISIS destroying all the one to two thousand year old statues and art artifacts in the Middle East.

Thank you for your time,

Respectfully,

Wenonah M. Allen

I am writing to express my opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum (ISM). Closing this facility would be detrimental to the people of Illinois because the ISM is not only a repository for priceless artifacts of Illinois history and heritage, an educational resource for countless citizens, college students, educators and school children, but it is also a means for tourism dollars to the regions in which the ISM serves. The closure will have negative impacts for many businesses and job loss and will have a minimal offset to the budget shortfall. Closing the ISM is a poor choice for balancing the budget.

Christopher Hildebrand
Paducah KY

To Whom It May Concern:

I greatly urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a graduate of Museum Studies from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and have worked at the Saint Louis Art Museum for six years. I gave a presentation at the Research and Collections Center last year. I have resided in the state of Illinois my entire life, and have visited the ISM in Springfield numerous times over the past years. I have two children (ages 21 months and 7 years) who enjoy the ISM as well. I value the unique educational and research opportunities the ISM provides the central Illinois region.

I strongly oppose the closing of the ISM for the following reasons:

- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, and archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.
- ISM offers an invaluable service to the central Illinois region. The galleries provide a broad range of Illinois history from prehistoric to contemporary times. The educational impact of the ISM to the Springfield area is immeasurable. ISM successfully supplements any existing educational program and allows its visitors exposure to artifacts and artworks.

I respectfully submit this plea to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to not close the Illinois State Museum systems. Upon receiving this email, kindly send a notice to me at amycreasyclark@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best,

Amy Clark

Illinois is a great state, thanks in large part, to its rich and diverse cultural heritage which is preserved and made available to the public by the Illinois State Museum. I know firsthand the museum's value. As a native Springfieldian and a frequent museum visitor, I have learned much from the museum's extensive and well-presented collection. As the daughter of a dedicated museum volunteer, I know how impressed visitors of all ages and backgrounds are by the museum and its offerings. As a parent, I know the educational value of the museum for my children.

For 138 years, ISM has helped visitors from Illinois and around the world learn about our state's history and celebrate its best art and artisans. It is nationally recognized as an outstanding museum and is home to some of the best researchers and museum staff working today. It is also an engine of economic growth for the state. The 387,000 people who visit the museum's flagship and satellite sites each year pump an average of \$33-37 million in to Illinois' economy. That revenue is five to six times the museum's 2016 operating budget of \$6.29 million!

Closing the museum means a real revenue loss for Illinois. It means dollars being taken out of the pockets of small and large businesses and the loss of badly needed sales tax revenue. It means Illinois may be less attractive to new businesses. And it means these losses will happen at a time when we cannot afford them.

Closing ISM will also create immeasurable opportunity costs for the state. The risk of losing current staff to other institutions, potentially in other states, and the risk that the museum will lose its accreditation and the state will face lawsuits from donors and funders, including federal agencies, are very real. These are things that, once they occur, may not be possible to reverse, and will tarnish Illinois' reputation.

While these implications are reason enough to keep the museum open, the most important reason not to close ISM is its value as an educational institution and preserver of our state's history. Every year, thousands of school children learn about Illinois' history and natural environment from museum visits and hands-on activities led by expert staff and volunteer docents. As protector of our state's most precious cultural artifacts, the museum enriches the lives of the its 387,000 annual visitors, as well as those of all Illinois residents by preserving the past for present and future generations. These benefits are invaluable and their loss would be a significant detriment to us all. Denying the public access to their history should not be a budget negotiation tactic.

Why risk so much to save so little money? Regardless of how dire the situation, state budgets are not balanced by cuts like this that mean insignificant short term gains at the expense of significant long term losses. Sustainable state budgets require strategic thinking that takes the long view and values the people served by the budget.

I hope the committee and the governor will heed the voice of the people and not sacrifice one of our state's most valuable treasures.

Bronwyn McDaniel

**We the Board members and Membership of the Springfield Civic Garden Club
OPPOSE
the closing of the Illinois State Museum**

Background of SCGC & ISM

Our special relationship with the ISM began in 1960s when Mrs. Milton Thompson was the SCGC president (1961-1963) and **her husband Milton Thompson was the Director of the ISM.**

Because of these two energetic individuals a strong relationship was built between the two organizations.

Many successful Standard Flower Shows have been staged at the ISM thru the years. Our club has been privileged to contribute many floral pieces for various museum Exhibit opening's, plus the Museum is a recipient of an annual floral design during National Garden Week .

The SCGC Board of Directors has passed a special motion at the July Board meeting for our club to go on record to "Save the ISM."

Carol Green, President
Springfield Civic Garden Club
SCGC Members, 378
Springfield, Illinois

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kristina Bottomley. The Illinois State Museum is a vital resource to our state, our schoolchildren, our universities, our researchers and it plays a vital role in the Illinois economy. The Illinois State Museum employs nearly 70 people in and serves over 680,000 visitors each year. It would cause great economic harm to our state, both to lose this many local jobs and to lose the tourism dollars that are the direct result of the Illinois State Museum. Further, it would be a terrible blow to the outstanding reputation of this AAM-accredited institution if it had to close its doors, especially since accreditation requires that the collection be open to the public. I strongly urge you to reconsider this misguided decision and keep the museum open.

Thank you,
Kristina Bottomley

Dear Commissioners:

Regularly going to the Illinois State Museum's Lockport Gallery to view its diverse art exhibits and to attend the many interesting lectures there is something my wife and I have counted on for years as one of our simple retirement pleasures. It is one of the reasons we have stayed in this area, rather than moving closer to our children in New Mexico and California.

Though the numbers do not yet show it, nearby Lockport is beginning to show signs of becoming a genuine art center. Both the historic Norton Building and the Lockport Gallery in it, along with the Gaylord Building (one of 28 National Trust Historic Sites) just north of it, form the centerpiece of major development efforts in the heart of downtown Lockport. The latest exhibits — which had to be taken down, because of the current budget impasse and consequent loss of insurance to protect them — were to be part of Lockport's second annual Summer Art Series, and we were really looking forward to it.

We've been told that the state's annual cost to operate the Lockport Gallery is about \$200,000. The State Museum's total annual budget for all locations is only \$6.3 million, and there are 13.5 million historical artifacts (already on hand and paid for) that will have to be maintained, somehow.

Surely there are more appropriate places to trim the budget. Closing this museum seems counterproductive as well as pennywise, pound foolish.

Please keep our museums open.

Earl Fischer
2222 Mulberry Rd.
Joliet, IL 60432

My name is Chelsea Pokrzywinski and I am a historian/substitute teacher in Illinois. I grew up in Springfield and spent many a Sunday afternoon in the museum. This museum is where I learned of my love of history and my desire to work in a museum or archive. As a college student I was fortunate enough to take a class at the collections site on Ash St in Springfield. I saw objects the general public does not get to see often if at all. The class not only taught us the importance of Native Americans throughout the U.S. and in Illinois, but the responsibility we have to help preserve their story and culture.

I currently reside in Normal, IL and encourage locals to go see the state museum. It is a collection for the people of Illinois of their history and heritage. Many Native American tribes that had roots in Illinois still trust the ISM under NAGPRA to keep their artifacts, including bodies, secure and properly maintained. This proposed closure currently puts the ISM in violation of NAGPRA as the tribes were not notified first of possible closure to set up a return of artifacts and bodies to them. The litigation this could bring could cost Illinois millions of dollars we currently do not have to spend.

Another issue with impending closure is the other sites in Illinois that borrow from the ISM collection. In McLean County the David Davis Mansion and McLean County Museum of History both have items on loan from the ISM that would need to be returned. What use are those items to the people of Illinois if they are locked up in a storage area inaccessible to people to learn from and enjoy?

A final issue is what happens to the artifacts, documents, taxidermy etc IF the ISM closes? Who will be responsible to keep these things in safe climate controlled settings to ensure that they are available for future generations to learn from.

For these reasons it makes no sense to let 68 people lose their jobs, close 5 sites, and save \$4.6 million dollars. If we lose these artifacts there is no price that can be placed on them once they are gone and lost forever. Please find another way to fix the budget crisis we are in.

Sincerely,
Chelsea M. Pokrzywinski (nee Kirk)

Please do not close the Illinois State Museum. It's embarrassing to be from a state that places so little value on its own history that it deems it appropriate to close its State Museum. We must value our past and learn from it or we are doomed to repeat its mistakes.

Catherine Higgins Brower

I grew up in Springfield IL and the Illinois State Museum played a big role in my interest in wanting to learn more about wildlife, natural sciences and art.

I remember wanting to spend my free time there after school or on weekends, as my big favorite exhibit was the buffalo. How I loved pressing that button to hear the sounds of that majestic creature!

I remember how I used to tell my mom that was what I wanted to do as much as possible. Visiting the museum was something i looked forward to. Field trips were a big deal to us students I recall, while attending Dubois Elementary School. Childhood memories were filled with my visits to this special place.

The Illinois State Museum has grown so much over the years.offering so many programs, activities and events, especially for children.

As an adult I worked with the museum to help coordinate the Springfield Jewish Federation (SJF) activities during their Multicultural Diversity Day. This indeed was a special day the museum held for youngsters from all over. I recall seeing children from across the state, not just here or near Springfield.

The museum has a great deal to offer and if you close its doors it's it the children who will lose out, they will pay the price. The museum is well respected and has accreditation that is quite difficult to obtain, Their national reputation is at stake and they may never get that accreditation again if you close their doors.

Tourism reports have shown that the museum is popular attraction here.

Just think of all the visitors coming here contributing to tourism/tourism dollars.

The capital city deserves to preserve such a treasure. Perhaps people who don't live here, and say may live in Chicago for example, may not know of or be truly able to appreciate what this institution means to Springfield as they have the big museums up there. But that does not mean to just push this place aside because it may not be big or in a big city.

Please please consider what it at stake and think of the kids, the future generations that would be deprived of this treasure and deprived of such wonderful memories I shared above. Please do NOT close this institution!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Arjmand

TO: Illinois Commission on Facility Closure

If the Illinois State Museum is closed:

Where would I take my children and grandchildren to learn about The Prairie State?

Where would we take out-of-state and international visitors?

Where would we go to learn about new archaeological discoveries that shed light on the peoples who lived here for over a thousand generations before us?

Ruth Sparks
13009 Teal Lane
Grafton, IL 62037-2151

Gary & Carolyn Jacobus, Cuba IL

Re: Dickson Mounds Museum
DO NOT CLOSE DICKSON MOUNDS

We have been supporters of Dickson Mounds since our childhood when it was Don Dickson's mounds. Please do not close this facility.

It is a huge part of this community and brings visitors to our area. The caretakers of this treasure are very dedicated to this museum and this area. They provide us with venues to participate in, from education to entertainment. There is nothing like going behind the doors to see what goes on at DM or watching ;your grandchildren's eyes light up when exploring in the Discovery Room.

Please do not close Dickson Mounds!

Gary & Carolyn

The Illinois State Museum is a significant research facility and an important repository of scientific specimens. It also provides valuable public outreach.

--

Robert J. Hoard, PhD
State Archeologist, Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099, USA

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System. I am a museum professional and I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
-
- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts “Saturplay,” a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM’s summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.
-
- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities. Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Malcomb



***Andrea Malcomb**
Museum Director
Historic Denver Inc.'s
Molly Brown House Museum
1340 Pennsylvania Street
Denver, CO 80203
303-832-4092 ext.15
303-832-2340 fax
www.mollybrown.org*

To Whom it may concern:

As a working Professional Artist I have an intimate connection with the Illinois State Museum. Over the last 30 my wife and I have made our living from making pottery. All of the wonderful people affiliated with the Museum have been incredible! Our work has been promoted through Art Spree Events, Magazine Articles, Books, Museum Gift Shops, and The State Fair. Countless people tell us of their great experience with the Museum and it's programs.

I can tell you first hand that Art and Science are abound in Illinois. This is largely due to the incredible programs offered through the Illinois State Museum and especially The Illinois Artisan Program and all the people tied to it.
Do not let the Illinois State Museum Close.

Tim Frye

I urge you to support the Illinois Artisans Program. I have exhibited, sold and demonstrated my artwork with this program since 1992. My residence and studio are in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago.

The economic, educational and tourism benefits of the Artisans Program are well documented. We should also consider our state's pride before eliminating the promotion of creativity. Does the state want to ignore it's indigenous culture?

There is nothing gained, not even economically, by dismantling the Illinois Artisans Program. But there is a lot to lose.

Please advocate for the arts in Illinois and support the Illinois Artisans Program.

Sincerely, Bronwyn Elkuss

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a citizen that travels and likes to increase my knowledge by visiting museums in other states and countries. After visiting these other museums, I am even more impressed with the exceptional quality of displays and programs that the ISM has to offer in 'my own backyard'! Besides being an educational source for Illinois citizens, it is with great pride that I think of Illinois being represented in a very positive way to tourists from afar through this museum.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.
- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts "Saturplay," a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM's summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Blood

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to say I oppose closing the Illinois State Museum sites.

The Springfield Museum has been a great place to learn to visit and to have family time. As a child I visited I am taking my own children and I take my grandchildren. Being able to visit the museum and see artifacts displayed brings history to life.

All families are able to go to the museum because it is free and open all year. Please keep the museum open. Thank you very much.

Peggy Cormeny

Since I was a child, through better and worse economic times, there has never been a threat like this to the Illinois State Museum. Our state cannot have an institution of this credibility and caliber with the draconian threat of closure or severe cutbacks held over its head. These threats must be lifted immediately and pledges made to secure and protect the Museum for posterity.

Would the U.S. Government ever threaten the Smithsonian in this way? Or New York City its Metropolitan Museum of Art or Museum of Modern Art (MOMA)? Has Chicago threatened its Art Institute or Museum of Science & Industry?

While other agencies and services can ride the state budget up and down, our defining cultural institutions are irreversibly denatured and diminished unless they are synonymous with our continuity as a state, a culture, and a people.

Sandra Baksys
2072 Greenbriar Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704

To whomever it may concern,

I am writing to express my disagreement and displeasure with Governor Rauner's proposal to close the Illinois State Museum, Lockport gallery, and other historic facilities managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). These facilities draw visitors/tourists to Springfield and local communities, harbor valuable resources, and extend IDNR's name and presence to a wider group of citizens. I also object to what I feel is the Governor's real purpose - political pain and leverage for matters unrelated to the museums. The cost of keeping these facilities open are not the cause of the State's fiscal problems.

Joseph Roth
1419 West Acres Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Sir,

I am a resident of Bushnell, which is located about 30 miles from Dickson Mounds. The Dickson Mounds Museum is very important to the area both as a historical and natural history museum, and also as a community focal point with concerts and educational events. We do not have very many - no, any - assets like Dickson Mounds in this part of the State. Please keep it open.

Thank you.

Brian P. Holland
401 E. Hess St.
Bushnell, IL 61422

Hello,

My name is Shawn Fields and I am a PhD student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I'm going into my third year of the anthropology program and studying to become an archaeologist. I am strongly opposed to the closing of the Illinois State Museum.

Before I entered graduate school, I had the opportunity to work on the New Philadelphia Archaeological Project. The Project studies New Philadelphia, Illinois - the first town founded by an ex-slave in the country. It was also an racially integrated town near the Mason-Dixon line during slavery.

As a black woman, I realized how useful archaeology could be in helping people learn about history that isn't or cannot be captured in history books. The thing is, the study of New Philadelphia could not have been done without the ISM. The ISM is where we went to study, catalog and store these artifacts. And it is a place where so many important collections on the state, the country, the city and so many different groups and people are housed.

Last summer I stayed in Springfield as I worked on another project with the ISM and the Lincoln Home National Park. During the summer I had the chance to leisurely visit the ISM. **While I thought that I would only be there for maybe 30 minutes, I stayed for more than an hour. The ISM is an engaging and informative museum. Going to the ISM inspired me that archaeology could be a feasible and rewarding career. I could help others learn about themselves and the world around them. I could work with other scientists outside my field to help build awesome exhibits that approach history and so many ways.**

Losing the Illinois State Museum will mean a loss of prestige to the state. It will surely hurt Illinois' position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development. Scientists come from all over the world to work with these collections and ISM scientists are asked to work on an array of important projects. It will also be a blow to the local Springfield economy as a major source of tourism will be shut down and would reduce the revenue that the state brings in.

Sincerely,

Shawn Fields

Jeffrey and Betty Peabody born and raised in Christian county Illinois . our parents were also as were their parents and so the story goes . I am a decedent of the mayflower my family came to Stonington Illinois from Stonington conn. The family's in our state are the people who built the history by living here and raising their kids working and investing in Illinois. Illinois like its people have seen good and bad times made and lost money tried and failed. After the dust settled we need to be able to say we cut back where we had to but we didn't close the museum out of respect to the folks who came before us adding every one of them to our history . The states children we want them to know that every generation of school kids comes through these doors to find their own interesting piece that bonds the puzzle together. We have bought most of my gifts over the years from your local artist in the wonderful gift stores located at the museums. The museum and the gift store are a fantastic draw to all ages. I never ever considered the closing of one or all museums in the state so for kids young and old please don't close any museum or gift store.

Jeffrey B Peabody

From: Dr. Michael Sutton, Ozarks Operation of the Cave Research Foundation

Re: Proposed Closure of the Illinois State Museum System

On behalf of the Ozarks Operation of the Cave Research Foundation, I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum, whether that closure be in full or in part.

I am a Member and Biological Consultant of the Cave Research Foundation, a nation-wide organization dedicated to the research and protection of caves and karst features, primarily in the United States (including Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Carlsbad Cavern in New Mexico, Lava Beds and Lilburn Cave in California, and numerous caves in Missouri and Arkansas). My many years of speleological study has led to my firm opposition to closure of the Illinois State Museum, an action which would clearly be a detriment not only to Illinois but to all states and even internationally.

Over many years, numerous biological, geological, paleontological and archaeological specimens from Missouri and Arkansas caves have been deposited with the ISM. In addition, renowned scientists from the ISM have at various times assisted in cave research in other states: their collaboration with the Cave Research Foundation as well as with the state and federal agencies with whom we in turn work has been greatly appreciated. Closing the Museum endangers access to both the collections and to the ISM scientists, a tremendous loss for researchers everywhere.

I hope that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

*Michael Sutton, PhD
Cave Research Foundation, Ozark Operations*

CC: Scott House, CRF Ozarks Operations Manager

I support Patricia McMillen's letter.

Susan Beall Acton

July 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System.

In addition to the educational, cultural, and historical experiences the Museums have given me, they have also provided a sense of pride in our State. I have brought countless visitors to the sites, spending many afternoons soaking in the exhibitions. I've boasted of the fossil collections in Springfield, the high calibre of exhibitions and artisan shop in Chicago (the best place to buy an Illinois souvenir), and the events hosted by the Lockport location.

As an artist, the exhibitions at the Chicago gallery were always a must see. I was thrilled to be selected to be in one of the current shows - it seriously was one of the biggest highlights of my career. The prestige of being shown by the Illinois State Museum was one of my goals, I never expected it to be cut short with my artwork being returned prematurely from Springfield. When my pieces were exhibited in the Chicago location, I had several inquiries from people from the east and west coasts who saw my art there. I could not have developed these new patrons had they not walked into the Illinois State Museum's exhibition.

There are so many ways the Illinois State Museum benefits its citizens that cannot be summed up with a spreadsheet. Experience, passion, inspiration, pride, please don't take that away from us.

Joanne Aono

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, Illinois 62706

To Governor Rauner and the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

As an Illinois citizen, I am deeply opposed to the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. The ISM System is an internationally recognized museum with a strong reputation for scientific excellence (active federal research grants, globally recognized staff) and reliable curation of scientific, cultural and historical objects (13.5 million accessioned objects) of state, national and global importance.

The ISM System has a demonstrated track record of public outreach and education (in 2014, over 40,000 schoolchildren visited the ISM and 2300 teachers were helped), including STEM education, for the citizens of Illinois. Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society. Please consider the societal services provided by this modern, significant, and high visibility museum system, and save the ISM for the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,
Sara Murphy

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor

State of Illinois

207 State House

Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

I am writing as a scientist, and as a former citizen of Illinois, to express my grave concern about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. I am a native of East St. Louis, and grew up in the blufflands between Belleville and East St. Louis. I had the good fortune, during a school trip to Springfield, to visit the Illinois State Museum at the age of 8, and it became a high point of subsequent trips to Springfield, through junior high, high school, and college (at SIU-C). The Museum had a tremendous impact on my interest in science and history, and showed me that there were great natural treasures – fossils, minerals, prairies, forests – in my own home state. Among the lessons it taught me were that I didn't have to go to California or Montana or Maine to see remarkable things – they were all close at hand, right where I lived. And the Museum, through its exhibits, its publications, and its staff, played a pivotal role in shaping me for a career in the sciences. It led me to appreciate the great natural and cultural heritage of Illinois.

I left Illinois in 1978 to pursue graduate studies in biology. Although I never returned to Illinois to live, I've maintained my appreciation for the Museum through my scientific work. The Museum has a world-class scientific and curatorial staff, several of whom have played and continue to play leadership roles in my own discipline. Illinois is fortunate to have a State Museum of the quality and stature of the ISM. It serves the state through education, outreach, and research. It continues to instill a sense of pride among its citizens. I hope you'll consider the legacy of the Museum, its continuing contributions to the citizens – especially the younger citizens - of Illinois, and its capacity for educating and inspiring the generations to come. Please don't let one of Illinois' most distinct and unique institutions disappear.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Jackson
Professor Emeritus of Botany, University of Wyoming
Professor of Geosciences, University of Arizona
Adjunct Professor of Life Sciences, Imperial College London
Past President, American Quaternary Association

3956 W. Bar Ranch Drive
Tucson, AZ 85745

I am a long-time resident of Illinois and retired State of Illinois employee. I visited the Illinois State Museum with my family when I was a child. While attending Springfield High School, my art classes visited the art museum part of the ISM and my AP Biology class visited the herbarium. I have known several of the researchers at the museum. I often run across references to specimens at the museum in scientific articles I read.

I believe the capricious decision to close the Illinois State Museum is wrong. The Illinois State Museum and its associated facilities are valuable educational and cultural resources. In addition, the research parts of the Illinois State Museum are valuable and essentially irreplaceable for their archeological, paleontological and biological work. The damage done to the institution through closure would be inexcusable. The fact that the damage would be done for political reasons would be unforgivable.

William Zierath
Petersburg, Illinois

Dear Illinois Government:

Please stop the proposal to close the Illinois State Museum, the Research and Collections Center and Dickson Mounds Museum. These closures would lay off all the people who work at these facilities. These are some of the most dedicated and influential folks in their respective fields. It would be a grievous blow to research into prehistoric archaeology and history in the region as well as tourist activities in Illinois. It would set a terrible precedent for other states to follow as well.

These institutions are important cultural teaching resources for children - I remember going to Dickson Mounds and the State Museum as a school kid in Bloomington, Illinois. It would be tragic to close these resources as a money-saver. What a shame. Please do not do it.

Thanks
Cathy

Cathy Pense Rayos
Head, Visual Resources Collections
University of Michigan
History of Art
45 Tappan Hall
855 South University Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1357

To Whom It May Concern:

Tonight I am sleepless pondering the implications of the potential closure of the Illinois State Museum facilities. Hence, I am writing to vehemently oppose their closure. After reading the first 175 pages of written testimony opposing the closure, authored by worldwide respected scientists, longtime supporters, and engaged parents, I feel I must write. The Illinois State Museum played a large part in shaping my life as a biologist, both vocationally and avocationally. I have been a biologist for most of my 35 year working career and have volunteered over 25 years in the various nature groups in my hometown of Springfield, Illinois. We have had a bird and butterfly friendly yard for decades. I have reared and released back into nature caterpillars of many species of beautiful butterflies and moths for 50 years.

The Illinois State Museum (ISM) and Research and Collection Center in Springfield have been part of my life for 50+ years, starting in grade school. My parents took my brother and me often to the ISM to enjoy and learn from the exhibits, watch educational movies, etc. We stood for hours learning from the habitat dioramas, the tornado exhibit, the lighted rock and mineral exhibit, and the dinosaur skeleton and had to be dragged away each time. My mother volunteered at the ISM in anthropology and curated seashells, donating from her collection. That inspired me to volunteer starting as a high school student helping with the insect collection, and volunteering periodically to this date at the ISM. I also enjoyed volunteering in the childrens' hands-on area begun in the 1980s, then called The Place for Discovery. Helping children overcome their fear of snakes while holding a gentle resident snake in this facility was quite gratifying. Over the decades we were privileged to learn from ISM scientists Tim Cashatt, John Paul, Al Koelling, and Dave Bohlen, among others. Tim has also been immeasurably helpful in my professional life and he and his family became close personal family friends starting in the 1970s. Tim has lent me ISM moth and butterfly specimen drawers for my various butterfly gardening talks over the years. Dave is kind enough to accept freshly road-killed birds for the ISM study skin collection and indulge our bird identification questions.

Fast forward to July 18, 2015, "Bug Day." I was honored to be asked to bring my caterpillars to show to the 1,200 attendees. The children were entranced to hold caterpillars and feast their eyes on other fascinating insects. The entire day was a joy. But it was sobering to walk into the denuded gift shop, once teeming with tasteful original art that had to be returned to the Illinois-resident artists. Not much to buy there now. One mother from Wisconsin, whose children had eagerly soaked up Bug Day, thanked me again as they were leaving. She was astonished and horrified to learn of the ISM's possible closure. I gave her the "Illinois Times" newspaper containing

Mona Colburn's well-written article about the ISM closure and urged her to write to express her feelings.

From the bottom of my heart I respectfully request that you keep the Illinois State Museum facilities open. To close them would be a horrible travesty, not only to the dedicated and professional career employees, but to the future of our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Susan Dees Hargrove
7100 Garden View Lane
Springfield, Illinois 62712

To whom it may concern,

I am against the closure of the Illinois State Museum system and the closure of the Illinois Artisans Program.

I have been a member of the Illinois Artisans program for more than 10 years, and the support of the staff has been invaluable to myself and others.

The Illinois Artisans Program provides opportunities to artists who may have no other outlet to show and sell their art.

Thank you,
Emily McCormick

If the Illinois State Museum is closed:

- 1) Where would I take my children and grandchildren to learn about The Prairie State?
- 2) Where would I take out-of-state and international visitors?
- 3) Where would we go to learn about new archaeological discoveries that shed light on the people who lived here before us?

Ruth Sparks

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a full professor of archaeology and anthropology at SUNY Adirondack, one of the State University of New York colleges. I got my foundation working in archaeology in Illinois over 30 years ago. My graduate work was at Washington University in St. Louis. Due to the proximity of the IL State Museum, and its world renowned collections and professional staff, I utilized these collections often during my graduate training and beyond. I worked as Director of Education at Dickson Mounds Museum as well. This was one of the primary avenues for education and community outreach for programs FAR beyond archaeology; we conducted educational programs of all sorts year round in this very rural area. I also worked at the Smithsonian Institution, and as an archaeologist for the Commonwealth of KY, prior to teaching full time. I consider the work I did in IL at both facilities to be instrumental in my training as a professional archaeologist and museum specialist, and have always considered myself extremely fortunate to have these experiences. I witnessed first hand, both in Springfield and at Dickson Mounds, the incredible educational outreach to citizens, educators, and professional archaeologists/museum specialists from all over the world. I have worked with museums all over the world, and I can tell you with great certainty that ALL of these facilities in IL are true gems. These are treasures that IL should be celebrating, and supporting, NOT closing down after nearly 150 years, as a political ploy!

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below: The tiny amount saved by closing these facilities is a drop in the economic budget of IL. The damage done by even a short closure is permanent. Accreditation, reputation, and even security issues are at stake, beyond the obvious job loss. The IL State Museums bring IN more money than they cost! While I understand that the budget gap must be closed, these are the WRONG places to gouge!

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MUSEUM

- The ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) An external team audited ISM and concluded that its exhibits, collections management procedures, and staff of highly trained professionals made it worthy of accreditation. Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.
-
- The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
-
- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the

public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.

-
- Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.
-
- ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.D.s, to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.
-
- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

YOUTH EDUCATION

- The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts "Saturplay," a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM's summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.
-
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.
-
- Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

NUMBERS

- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.

Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors Dickson Mounds in Lewistown: 50,000 visitors Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors Southern Illinois Art Gallery near Sesser: 18,000 visitors Springfield: 200,000 visitors

- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.
-
- ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.
-
- The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.
-

For these reasons, and many, many others, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration. *Valerie A. Haskins, Professor of Archaeology and Anthropology, SUNY Adirondack, NY.*

While we are aware of the financial mess in Illinois and understand that noone wants their interest cut, we are in strong OPPOSITION to the possible museum closures. You have been made aware of the false economy of such an act. But have you stopped to realize that that our HISTORY is about the only thing that every citizen of Illinois ACTUALLY SHARE ?

Please consider the huge loss for research, school children, and generations yet to be born.

With HOPE,
Dava Brooke Zschau

My name is Thomas Richard Styles. I am a life-long resident and citizen of Illinois. I wish to express my OPPOSITION to the proposed closing of the Illinois State Museum.

Closing the Museum for even one fiscal year will essentially destroy it. Neither the governor nor the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have fulfilled their obligation to explain and justify this extreme action.

Thomas Richard Styles

To: Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

I am writing to offer comment on the Illinois State Museum (ISM) and the important role it plays as a research and education facility not only in Illinois but in the Midwest. As State Archaeologist for the state of Michigan, I have witnessed collaboration between ISM staff and their counterparts in other states, including Michigan. In 2012, ISM staff assisted us in separating human bone from animal bone in an archaeological collection from a Michigan state park. ISM staff participate in the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project in Niles, Michigan, which was the recipient of a 2003 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. Further, the ISM provides research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students, including students at Michigan universities, such as Michigan State University, Western Michigan University and Wayne State University. In addition, an ISM staff member is scheduled to be a speaker at our annual Archaeology Day in October.

ISM programs and collections have been a cornerstone of research and preservation in Illinois and the Midwest region for many years. The benefit of these programs for the citizens of Illinois, and the wider population that depends upon them for education and research is vital.

Sincerely,

Dean L. Anderson, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office
Michigan Library and Historical Center
Box 30740
702 West Kalamazoo
Lansing, MI 48909-8240

To Whom it may concern:

I am the principal investigator of an historic pioneer era archaeological site in Michigan. Just a few years ago, our governor proposed shuttering our own Michigan Historical Center, the flagship location containing the library, archives, museum, and archaeological resources. Luckily, the center remains open as an important resource for everyone to enjoy and use. Every year an Archaeology Day event is held in October with participants from around Michigan displaying and discussing research from across the state, including artifacts from the Warner site. The event continues to get bigger each year with several hundred people attending, a testament to the interest by the public in historical and archaeological research.

It should be noted that no historical or archaeological research can be conducted in isolation. We are heavily dependent on discoveries made in different regions and different states to use all the clues available to more fully interpret the past. Clearly, the closing of the Illinois State Museum would negatively impact research not only in Illinois but also here in Michigan. In fact, researchers from Illinois and Michigan have worked on many collaborative projects. The loss of the archaeological resource, especially the

zoarchaeological collection that has taken decades to assemble, is hard to fathom and would be a tragic loss.

I implore you to find other ways to make up the budget shortfall. The Illinois State Museum is an important not only to the citizens of Illinois but surrounding states as well.

Thank you,

Tim Bennett
Warner Site

While employed in Chicago, I was a regular visitor at and patron of the above facilities over the last 25 years.

My good fortune in being exposed to the wonderful art and craft of innumerable Illinois artists greatly enriched the lives of me and my family and friends.

The art offered at these sites is essential to maintaining not only the necessary appreciation of beauty in us as individual citizens; but, perhaps even more importantly, it creates a shared culture which binds us together as a community.

Please vote to maintain the necessary funding to preserve these vital services.

Thank you,
Dennis A. Ferraro

Dear Commission Members,

The proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum and its subsidiary museums is a step in the wrong direction for the State of Illinois and a severe detriment to the people living within its borders. The ability to study, analyze, and reflect on the past is a unique part of what it means to be human. Understanding our history and the history of those who came before us provides a context upon which we have built our society. These museums not only provide an opportunity for the public to actively learn about their past, but are also instrumental in re-writing the historical record to provide a more accurate picture of historical life in Illinois.

Their impending closure is but one error in a series of proposed cuts to educational institutions that have the potential to shape the minds of our youth and young adults. Make no mistake, if you vote to close these institutions, you are sending an unambiguous message to the people of this state that their education and cultural heritage is unimportant. Whether this message is intentional or simply a product of political hostage taking, in the long run these actions will create uneducated, ignorant citizens that will be prone to bigotry and hatred towards things they do not understand because they lack to context to do so.

As someone who has benefited from the museums' expertise in my professional work as an archaeologist, I can attest to the important role the museum plays in educating young professionals in the field.

The collections held by Dickson Mounds Museum and the State Museum in Springfield are filled with important data that hold the key to answering questions we have about our past and providing new ones to ask. It was once said that those who forget their past are doomed to repeat it. To that, I would add that remembering a flawed historical narrative based on the perpetuation of nationalism is equally as dangerous. The museums you are looking to close provide an empirical way to fill in the blanks to form a more accurate version of our past.

I urge you to consider the points raised in this letter, not through a political spectrum, but rather from an educational stand point. Please protect our cultural heritage and give the residents of the State on Illinois a chance to learn, grow, and become better citizens. These museums are important to that goal. I do not support their closure, and I am hoping that you can come to the same conclusion.

Sincerely,
Andrew Mallo
Macomb, Illinois

To Whom It may Concern:

I am writing to protest the possibility of the closure of the Illinois State Museum and associated facilities (Research and Collections center, Dickson Mounds) and to urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum System.

I am a professional archaeologist who has worked in the Cultural Resource Management industry for over 35 years. I first visited the Illinois State Museum in 1975 on my way to work for the summer at the Center for American Archaeology in Kampsville. Since that time I have visited the Museum on numerous occasions when I have been in the Springfield area whether it be on business or for pleasure. Over the years I have also had the opportunity to visit many of the other museums associated with the Illinois State Museum system such as Dickson Mounds and to work with archaeologists based in the Research and Collections center. I might also note that between 2006 and 2008 when I was involved in a major archaeological survey and excavation project associated with a natural gas pipeline, visits to the State Museum and Dickson Mounds was one of the favorite pass times of our field crews, which often numbered more than 50 people, on their days off.

The Illinois State Museum is one of the premier institutions of its kind in the United States. While I am most familiar with the archaeologists on staff, the high quality of the exhibits and the Museum's reputation bespeak the high quality and dedication of the scientists, historians, and museum specialists who work there. Both currently and in the past the Museum has employed some of the brightest and most respected archaeologists in the United States. Over the years I have had the good fortune to work professionally with some of the Museum staff on a number of

archaeological projects. The quality of their work is nothing less than outstanding and has made tremendous contributions to my projects. Historically, the Illinois State Museum has been involved in numerous archaeological projects in the state that have greatly influenced and expanded our knowledge of both the prehistoric and historic past. The results of these research projects have laid the framework for understanding prehistoric lifeways over the last 12,000 years across much of the Midwestern United States.

Through its exhibits, outstanding researchers and research facilities, public outreach and education programs, the Museum is a model of what the museum experience should be. Even a temporary closing of the Museum and its associated facilities would be of extreme detriment and, indeed, an insult to the many thousands of people who have visited the museum and participated in its educational programs and those who would not have such a wonderful opportunity if it was no longer available. Through preserving and caring for the natural and cultural history of Illinois and providing a means by which the people of the state can learn about their world, the Museum impacts thousands of people in a beneficial way. In these ways it also contributes greatly to the knowledge of the broader region and benefits many other people from the surrounding and nearby states.

While the Museum also has great economic benefit to Springfield and the communities where its associated facilities are located, its value cannot be measured in dollars alone. Its true value lies in the lives it has made fuller and the knowledge that it has preserved and made available to all. Closing the Museum would be tantamount to England dismantling and selling off the crown jewels in order to satisfy a short term political goal. Closing of the Museum would be short-sighted and seriously detract from Illinois as a place that people would want to visit, let alone move to and raise a family. I urge the Commission to make the strongest case possible to the Governor of Illinois not to make a foolhardy decision to close the Museum and its associated facilities in the name of political expediency and to save so few dollars that it would have no impact on the state's deficit issues.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hambacher, Ph.D., RPA

I would like to convey to the commission my experience in working with the Save the Illinois State Museum group. We are a grassroots group that formed organically after one member starting our facebook page and another started the online petition. We currently have over 8000 people following our page, our posts have been viewed this past week by over 60,000 people, with more than 5000 people liking, commenting on, or sharing them. These include people from across Illinois and indeed the world, with 43 countries represented. In working with this group I have learned how united our community is in opposition to closure. Families, business groups, community organizations – none support

closing. None. I urge you, if you have not already, to visit our page with its outpouring of support and testimonies. I am humbled by the task of trying to speak for so many here today. Some of these voices are scientists from around the world have made clear what an incredible contribution this museum makes to science and science education. Museums are not something you shut in hard times. Museums are refuges in hard times as they serve to remind us that times have been hard before and people still figured out a way forward. The museum was founded in 1877, eighteen seventy-seven, this means the good people of Illinois who lived through the great depression figured out a way to keep the doors open, surely we can do the same. For the sake of science, science education, our national and international reputation, our local and state economies, our families and communities, I urge you to vote in opposition to closure. Please give my 8yr old daughter who loves this museum the happy ending I have promised her. Please give all of us a happy ending by restoring our museum to us.

Amy McEuen

Dear Illinois CoGFA:

I am dismayed to learn that you contemplate closing the Illinois State Museum. No doubt many commenters will note ISM's economic benefits to the state, as modest as they may be. But arguably, ISM's greatest value is as one of the foremost state education and research museums in the U.S. ISM is manifest evidence of Illinois's commitment to a cultured, civilized life.

Penny wise but pound foolish. Strict accounting is easy to implement, but its long-term costs often are high. Institutions like ISM are easy to destroy, but once your budget conditions improve the cost of restoration will be grotesquely disproportionate. The question isn't "Can you afford the ISM?" The question is, "Can you afford to close it?"

At a time when tax "burdens" in the U.S. are by far the lowest in the Western world, what conclusion do you want other Americans and our friends abroad to draw about Illinois's commitment to things worth preserving? Cheap political promises are easy to make. We outsiders look for evidence of the courage and sense of responsibility to do what it takes to preserve the things that make Illinois worth caring about.

Sincerely,
Michael Shott
Prof., Dept. of Anthropology & Classical Studies
Univ. of Akron
Akron, OH 44325 USA

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Springfield Area Arts Council to oppose the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum system.

This system is nationally accredited and internationally renowned, and it contributes greatly to our state's economy and cultural heritage.

Closing the state museum system makes no economic sense. If the State shuttered the museums, the \$33 million in economic impact they generate annually will disappear, taking jobs with it. The museums will lay off 68 workers. Employees of small businesses that rely on museum and museum visitor spending will find their jobs at risk.

Closing the museums will mean eliminating one of our state's key economic drivers. Museums are the top reason tourists visit Illinois, and our state museum system alone attracts over 386,000 visitors each year.

The proposed closure will provide only meager savings, if any. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources projects \$4.8 million in annual savings. This amount equals just 1/10 of 1% of the state's projected deficit. Moreover, the estimated savings do not include the high costs of the closure process, such as returning millions of objects the museums have under their care as part of agreements with the federal government and other entities. The State will also lose \$2 million in active federal grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation.

I have quantified the significant economic harm that will result, but there will also be damage that is immeasurable. The museums' collection of 13.5 million objects helps us understand and appreciate the arts, nature, cultural diversity, and our shared heritage. The proposed closure will prevent over 2,300 teachers and 40,000 students each year from accessing these learning opportunities.

I urge the Commission to countermand the Governor's directive to implement this closure, and I ask that you do all that you can to keep the Illinois State Museum System open, free, and accessible to the People of the State of Illinois.

Respectfully,

Jon Austin, Executive Director
Springfield Area Arts Council
420 South Sixth Street
Springfield IL 62701

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a native of Illinois, a citizen, and as a museum professional to oppose the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum and its facilities throughout the State.

The Illinois State Museum is accredited nationally by the American Alliance of Museums, and it is renowned internationally. It contributes greatly to our state's economy and cultural heritage by collecting the State's natural history, ethnography, archaeology, art, and decorative arts.

Closing the state museum system makes no economic sense. If the State shutsters the museums and galleries, the \$33 million in economic impact they generate annually will disappear, taking jobs with it. The museums will lay off 68 workers. Employees of small businesses that rely on museum and museum visitor spending will find their jobs at risk.

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As a museum professional, my career spanning twenty-eight years has been built on nurturing and advocating on behalf of museums as permanent and perpetual institutions that allow present and future generations to learn from our past. My choice of a career path developed in the late 1960s while I was in elementary school as the result of parents who believed that value existed in including regular visits to Illinois museums, including the ISM and Dickson Mounds, where learning opportunities abounded through the exhibition of artifacts, research shared through exhibit labeling, and the many visual opportunities to develop a deep appreciation for the State's rich history and development over time. My hope is that future generations might

share that same experience of discovery and interactive learning regarding the past and present.

I urge the Commission to countermand the Governor's directive to implement this closure, and I ask that you do all that you can to keep the Illinois State Museum System open, free, and accessible to the people of Illinois.

Respectfully,

Jon Austin
Jacksonville, IL

The Chicago Branch of the Illinois State Museum has been an Oasis to me. I have been an office worker in the Chicago Loop for the past 25+ years I have experienced amazing shows at this gallery. It taught me a great deal of the history of the people of Illinois as told through Illinois artisans. I am a transplant from the east coast and I found it thrilling to learn so much about my new State. A particular favorite show of mine was about historical quilts. The shows always energized me on my lunch hour, helping to me to de-stress and finish the day with a smile and having learned something new. I also enjoyed shopping at the Artisan Shop. A carefully curated store with unique items only made in Illinois. As a taxpayer I would like my taxes to go toward keeping these museums open. Charging a small fee may help the people of Illinois fund such a worthy place. Thank you.

Gretchen Colavito

I strongly support the Illinois State Museum and their educational mission. This Museum should not be closed, shut down or diminished.

Just the announcement of the possibility of closing the Museum has a ripple effect with educators across the State of Illinois. Closing the state Museum also greatly hurts the reputation of the State of Illinois as a place to do business. Who would want to locate in Illinois that cannot even keep their own State Museum open?

Jane Pfeifer
Elsah, Illinois
618 374 1565

22 July 2015

Dear Members of the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability,

I am writing to express my absolute OPPOSITION to the closure of the Illinois State Museum system. The Illinois State Museum is a cornerstone of public education, research, and community life in Springfield and in all of this great state. It is staffed by fantastic employees who have given their professional and personal lives to this institution in the spirit of public service. I know intimately how devoted the ISM employees are to their work and to public education, economic development, research, and the preservation of our natural and cultural heritage. My mother, Bonnie Styles, the current Director of the Illinois State Museum, has given 60 plus hours per week (nights, weekends, holidays included) to the museum and to the State of Illinois for the last 39 years. I grew up exploring the exhibits, attending summer camps, volunteering, and living and breathing this museum. The employees here are the "village" that raised me while my mom worked diligently with the ISM team on exhibits, conducted her own archaeological research, devised wonderful public education programs, and brought in grant money for ground-breaking research. I grew up in a world where everyone loved their jobs passionately, never considered whether they could earn more working in the private sector, and believed that their time and energy could make a difference in the world. They were proud to work for the museum, proud to work for the state, proud to serve the public. I have also seen my childhood friends, many of whom grew up in low income households and/or had parents who had not gone to college, be inspired by our fieldtrips to the Illinois State Museum to pursue higher education and become scientists and educators themselves.

When I finished my Ph.D. at the University of Washington, I accepted a job offer at the University of Illinois Springfield and returned home because I wanted to follow in the footsteps of the Illinois State Museum employees who inspired and guided me through my early life. Because of what I saw growing up in the museum, I know that Springfield is a place where education, research, and community are valued and that Illinois is a state where my kids can grow up dreaming about becoming scientists, historians, and artists. My friends who also grew up here - a crucial demographic of young, educated professionals in their mid-30s - want to come home to Springfield - to Illinois - from the places where we pursued our further education. We want to come home to Illinois, and many of us also want the opportunity to serve as public sector employees (despite knowing that our salaries may be lower than in the private sector). If you allow our museum to be taken away, if you allow the things we value (culture, education, community, science, and the arts) to disappear, we will leave and we will take the future of Illinois with us to other states. Please save our museum. Help this remain a place that we can be proud to call home. Please honor the work that our parents put into this state, to this institution, and this city. Preserve the possibility for us to follow in their footsteps. Invest in this museum, invest in public institutions like this, and my generation will give you returns beyond measure. I am ready to serve this state as my mother has, and I am

already doing so at UIS, but I need colleagues, my children need opportunities to learn and grow, and my friends need jobs.

Thank you for the time, thought, and heart that you all are putting into this decision. Please recommend that the museum system not be closed.

Sincerely,

Megan. A. Styles, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies
University of Illinois Springfield
133 S. Douglas, Apt 2N
Springfield, IL 62704

The Illinois State Museum and Dixon Mounds Museum should not be closed. I understand that cuts must be made but this state can and should keep these institutions open for the public even in a reduced capacity.

These institutions were founded not upon a business model (as is so often cited today in regard to government institutions), but upon higher principles of providing the people with greater access to their scientific and cultural environment. Generations of taxpayers, donors, volunteers, state workers, and even governors have contributed to maintaining these higher principles. So this statement isn't about keeping the museums open for us (the current generation), but rather to honor those who have come before, who have provided us with the ISM and Dixon Mounds. It is a small effort to pay it forward, by committing to the ISM and Dixon Mounds today so that future Illinoisans can appreciate these wondrous institutions.

Christopher A. Schnell

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

I am a citizen and museum professional. I am also a parent who has visited Springfield many times and have taken my daughter to the ISM and am happy to spend tourism dollars in my own state capital.

I oppose closing the ISM for the reasons listed below:

- ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM

ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.

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- The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.
- 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.
-
- In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.
- Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sara Phalen, Esq.

As a citizen who uses the Illinois State Museum and its publications, I oppose the planned closing. The closing puts in jeopardy the priceless collections it holds and may result in the loss of many of Illinois' historic artifacts. The museum's educational outreach is not duplicated by any other state organization.

Lois Guyon, Ph.D
508 Columbus Rd
Streator, IL 61364

As a lifelong resident of the State of Illinois, and artist and an educator, I urge you to recommend against closing the Illinois State Museum and its outlying locations. For our entire lives, my family and friends have visited the museums--they are such an important part of our learning.

I have exhibited at each of the venues of the ISM, as have innumerable other artists from the State. History tells us about the importance of our museums to our culture--this is not a resource we can afford to lose. Please save these institutions for our children and grandchildren, they are a much valued part of our heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

Preston Jackson
11320 N Hickory Woods Court
Dunlap, Illinois 61525

Closing the Illinois State Museum makes about as much sense as closing the State Capitol or our schools. Is nothing sacred? When I was growing up it was mandated that ALL Illinois fifth graders went to Springfield to see the Capitol, museum and the Lincoln sites. For some it was their first visit to a large city and extremely memorable and educational. Now only those students/schools with money get that opportunity. One by one we are corroding our state icons and traditions. Not all students learn the same way and it is important to expose them to our state history as only the state museum can.

Another function the state museum has fulfilled is its public participation events such as art gallery, programs, artisan shop and speakers. It has a fabulous reputation for quality, variety and professionalism.

Although I cringe as I write this but perhaps a nominal fee could be charged or a suggested donation. Some museums have even set one day a week as a "free" day for those we want to attend but do not have the funds. I am not sure if the yearly attendance but this could help. It has been my experience that sometimes if you have a quality product (which we do) that you make more with a free-will donation as those that realize the value will donate more than the price of admission.

Please save the museum! It is a crown jewel of Illinois and should always be here to be enjoyed by the people of our city, state and world.

I am a retired teacher and words cannot express the importance of continuing this educational institution.

Cornelia Powell
715 West Fayette Avenue
Springfield, IL. 62704

I urge the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum (ISM) System.

As a museum curator, I have worked with the professional and highly-educated staff within the State Museum System. It would be a great loss to the state and the professional community should the staff need to seek jobs elsewhere. Additionally, the State Museum will lose its accreditation should it close, an accreditation which only approximately 5% of the nation's museums hold. It would be a difficult and lengthy process to reacquire accreditation, and - having once lost this status - the State Museums risk not being able to regain this national recognition.

The legislators discussing the museum's closure seem ignorant of the substantial costs of lawsuits and repatriation of collections and artifacts donated under specific terms, promised to be accessible to researchers and the public, and falling under the terms of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The few million saved do not go far to alleviate the state's budget issues, but they are a drop in the bucket compared to future costs of properly curating, deaccessioning, and returning artifacts and natural objects. These are artifacts and objects, I might add, that are HELD IN THE PUBLIC TRUST. These items do not belong to the state, they belong to its citizens, and the state's legislators should not have the right to remove these items from the public.

Beyond dollars and cents lies a cost in the loss of educational and research opportunities through the Illinois State Museum System. Within the last week, archaeological researchers made a startling discovery of a young bobcat buried at a Native American site by some of Illinois's earlier residents. The story is linked here:

[Prehistoric Cat Burial: Bobcat Found in Illinois](#)



Prehistoric Cat Burial: Bobcat Found in Illinois

An animal buried 2,000 years ago in funeral mounds along the Illinois River has been found to be a very young bobcat.

[View on www.natureworldn...](#)

Preview by Yahoo

Please note the final paragraph stating that this researcher can no longer access the samples to do future research. This story has been covered in several national and international news outlets, demonstrating to the world our state's lack of respect for this valuable resource. Closing the State Museum System will impact researchers, educators, and students in our state for many, many years to come. This closure will surely impact today's young people - future Illinois leaders, teachers, and lawmakers - negatively.

As a private citizen of the state of Illinois, I urge you to vote against the closing of the Illinois State Museum System.

Sincerely,

Valerie Hall

To the Commission.

I am writing to express my opposition to the closure of the Illinois State Museum System. Our accredited state museum is a treasure trove of artifacts and information regarding Illinois natural and culture history. The materials are studied not only by scientists in our state, but by researchers from around the country and around the world. The scientists who work at the museum are highly respected specialists in their fields and we are lucky to have their knowledge and expertise at our museum. The museum will probably lose accreditation by such a closure and that would be a black eye on our whole state.

The people of Illinois have supported and paid for this museum with their tax dollars for over 138 years and it belongs to the people. Hundreds of school children and families visit the museums each year and the educational value of the exhibits and programs is worth the cost of the museums many times over. There is no other place in the state with the level of knowledge and the teaching capacity of the Illinois State Museum.

Although the governor believes that closing the museum will save money, I believe that he isn't considering the ripple effect such a closure will have on the state economy. While the museum costs about \$4.8 million to run, the economic ripple effect will result in a loss of \$33 million to state businesses in travel and tourism. How is that a savings to our economy? To me it's a case of being penny wise and pound foolish. Illinois will also lose funding in contracts and federal grants if the museum is closed, which is an additional loss to our economy. In times like these, the state needs to be increasing income to the economy, not turning it away.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Flotow

Please do not close the state museum or any its local affiliations (e.g. Dickson Mounds). I understand the dire financial situation of the state, but feel the minimal help closing the museums would provide is absolutely not worth wasting the institution that has taken decades to build.

I really suspect the new governor is using the ISM as a hammer in his union busting campaign. If that is true, I ask the governor to please stop this tactic immediately.

Doug VanNattan
Greenview, Illinois

To the Commission:

The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) is the largest ornithological society in the Americas and one of the oldest organizations in the world devoted to the scientific study and conservation of birds. The Collections Committee of the AOU monitors the status of scientific collections of birds and promotes the improvement of these collections for both scientific research and education.

The AOU Collections Committee is gravely concerned about plans by the Commission to close the Illinois State Museum, one of the major state museums in the United States. The Museum houses critical collections of zoological specimens, including bird skins, skeletons, mounts, egg sets, and nests -- all part of Illinois' natural heritage. Accompanying this material are labels and field notes that include documentation of the profound changes that have occurred to Illinois birds over time and thus are irreplaceable for research and teaching. The Illinois State Museum collections began in 1877 and provide material of great importance for researchers at Illinois agencies (e.g., Illinois Department of Natural Resources), Illinois universities (e.g., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Prairie Research Institute), and researchers throughout the Midwest and the nation. The Illinois State Museum is an important part of a global network of research museums. Its long history of scholarship, preservation, and teaching is a great credit to Illinois. Closure of the Illinois State Museum puts the collections at risk of loss and damage, and the collections cannot be recreated. A short-term decision like this has potentially very negative long-term consequences for the State of Illinois.

In 1988, the State of Illinois funded the Research and Collections Center of the Illinois State Museum. This facility, dedicated in 1994, ensured that the zoological collections would be part of a global collections network following the highest curatorial standards. The Illinois State Museum is an institutional member of the Natural Science Collections Alliance. As a member of this Washington, D.C.-based alliance, the Illinois State Museum is an integral part of the network of collections, scientists, and other professionals that house natural science collections and use them in research, exhibitions, academics, and science education.

An active collection requires a professional scientific staff that is able to curate and protect the material from damage, fulfill loans and data requests, and continually update the collection following the latest curatorial innovations. Closure of the Illinois State Museum, even if it is able to keep a reduced staff, would severely undercut these activities, which are key components for fulfilling its mission.

Additionally, closing of the Illinois State Museum, even if reversed at a later date, would do untold damage to the ability of the institution to raise private donations and seek competitive grants in the future. The State of Illinois would also suffer damage to its reputation and would be seen as a state that does not value its natural heritage or its key cultural institutions, or take seriously its fiduciary responsibilities to long-standing institutions and collections in its care.

The Illinois State Museum has over 150 years of proven service to science and the public, and we urge you protect this important institution from closure or draconian cuts that would cause

long-lasting damage to the natural heritage that the State of Illinois is charged with protecting for future generations.

Sincerely,

Kevin Winker, Ph.D., Chair

Collections Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union

(University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks, Alaska)

John Bates, Ph.D. (Field Museum)

Angelo Capparella, Ph.D. (Illinois State University)

Carla Cicero, Ph.D. (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley)

Jeremy J. Kirchman, Ph.D. (New York State Museum)

Nicholas A. Mason (Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates)

James Maley, Ph.D. (Occidental College)

Jocelyn Hudon, Ph.D. (Royal Alberta Museum)

Paul Sweet (American Museum of Natural History)

Dear Governor Rauner,

As a Chicago artist and resident, I am happy to be sending you this letter of support for KEEPING THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUMS AND ACCOMPANYING SHOPS OPEN. THEY SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED!!! Having just returned from a vacation in New York City where my husband and I have visited museums nonstop, I realized all the more why museums in any location are so very important to all people for the following reasons:

- 1) They help to chronicle the culture of a people at a certain place in time, such as the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists in France and other parts of Europe during the latter 1800's, the Cubists from the early 1900's through the 30's, the Surrealists and Dada artists during the Second World War years, Abstract Expressionism during the 1950's when the U.S. became the 'seat' of art in the world, the Pop movement of the 1960's, fast-forwarding to New Realism, Post-Modernism, Neo-Expressionism, and contemporary collaboration and installation art
- 2) They give dignity to the work of particular cultures, such as African, Chinese, and now Islamic cultures
- 3) They provide solace and inspiration from the humdrum nature of everyday society
- 4) They provide ideas that stimulate youth to produce art and keep them off the street in some sectors of society, giving them a more fulfilling life than they might otherwise have
- 5) They also generate possibilities of jobs as graphic artists, illustrators, muralists, fine artists who sell their work in galleries, gallery owners, elementary and secondary art teachers, and art professors
- 6) They provide opportunities to give to a community greater understanding of the struggles of certain populations by showing specialty exhibits, such as the Northern Migration of African Americans after the years of slavery (there were several such exhibits in New York Museums, such as the Whitney and the Guggenheim)
- 7) They provide opportunities for civic-minded people to connect in venues that offer new knowledge
- 8) They provide opportunities for artists to connect by producing work of a common theme.

I know that I could cite many more reasons why it is important to keep the Illinois Museums and shops open, but my time is limited. Considering my last reason, "they provide opportunities for artists to connect in work of a common theme," I have experienced this in many ways, having recently curated "Chicago Artists Interpret Shakespeare As They Like It." It has traveled to now eight different venues and has positively affected many people -- the artists, the audience in each venue, and was even selected to be included in a PBS documentary "Our City: Our Shakespeare." It has been an opportunity to take time-worn themes and bring them into the present.

I will end my letter with a quotation by Winston Churchill when it was suggested to him to close the National Gallery of London during World War II when there were bombings everywhere, mass hysteria, some starvation, and multiple financial problems. He looked directly at the man and said "Well, if that happens, what is it we are fighting for?" This quotation was by THE MAN OF THE CENTURY, one of the greatest leaders of all time, who virtually saved Europe and the rest of the world, by extension. He was also a good painter in his own right. Did you know that? Like you, Governor Rauner, he was a politician, but he -- THE MAN OF THE CENTURY-- felt that the arts were as necessary for the well-being of the people as food.

I hope that you will carefully consider my comments, as well as those of countless others, and KEEP THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUMS AND SHOPS OPEN.

Very Sincerely,

Anne Farley Gaines, Artist and Independent Curator
Pilsen Screens and Murals
713 West 19th Street
Chicago, IL 60616-1023

Many of the objects in the Museum's collections (some 13.5 million items all together) were donated to the Museum. Though most of those donations were covered by the Museum's standard Deed of Gift, which essentially gives the Museum all rights to the object(s) covered, many donations have a Deed of Gift featuring additional stipulations--for example, that the item must always be available to the public through the Museum's collections, or that the object(s) must be returned to the donor or the donor's family under certain circumstances. Thus, in the event of closure of the Museum, the Deeds of Gift for donated materials must be examined and evaluated. For some Deeds of Gift, the donors (or their surviving family members) will need to be located and contacted, and arrangements will have to be made to be certain that the stipulations are met or the materials are returned to the donors.

Many of the archeological specimens in the Museum's collection also require special attention, particularly where those items are covered under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Dealing with the mandates of this Act can be a difficult and time-consuming process, even when the Museum and the Native American groups involved are wholeheartedly cooperating on the processing of any remains or artifacts.

And many of the Museum's biological specimens will require careful attention to ensure that they are not endangered by poor environmental conditions, neglect, or failure to maintain the items properly. For example, the failure to maintain fluid levels in bottles containing preserved animals can result in the complete destruction of those specimens.

Governor Rauner has proposed that, should the Museum close, two individuals would take responsibility for the care of the Museum's collections, and one would be responsible for the physical facilities. It is clear that two individuals could not handle all of the curatorial work that would be required in this situation. Simply going through Deeds of Gift would be immensely time-consuming. With 13.5 million items in the

Museum's collection and two people working full-time, each item could be examined for one second during a year.

Finally, little has been said about the loss of Federal grants due to the closure of the museum, nor of damage to scientific research should the Museum close. The Commission needs to include information about the \$2 million in grants that will be lost if the Museum closes. The Museum also maintains important databases on climate, geographical information, pollen, and the fauna of the Quarternary period, along with its extensive collections--all important to basic research. Closing the Museum would be harmful to important work by scientists around the world.

Mark Pence

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
ATTN: Facility Closure
703 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

July 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the proposed closer of the Illinois State Museum, including its many satellite locations throughout Illinois.

From 2011 to 2014 I served as the court-appointed receiver in a court case involving a now-defunct 501c3 (People of the State of Illinois ex rel Lisa Madigan vs. The Peace Museum and Melissa McGuire) and had the opportunity to work closely with the Illinois State Museum during this legal process as they provided not only technical expertise and support to aid the Illinois Attorney General's efforts on behalf of the people of Illinois, but became custodians for multiple works that were part of the public trust. I came to appreciate the significant cultural value the Illinois State Museum offers the citizens of Illinois and to the many tourists who visit our state with the specific intent of visiting this state institution. This in turn has offered a measurable economic advantage to the state at a time it is most needed.

Of equal importance, the Illinois State Museums's vast collection of hundreds of thousands of items, artifacts, and art, is part of a public trust that properly belongs to the citizens of Illinois. The Illinois State Museum, like most institutions who hold large collections, is but the caretaker. Through this proposed closing that is part of a much larger

politically fueled budget fight, the state will in fact be giving away a priceless collection that truly belongs to the citizenry if it proceeds with the closure plan submitted.

Closing the museum would not only cause a serious cultural void and create irreparable harm to the reputation of the state of Illinois for arbitrarily shuttering such an esteemed institution, but it would create a series of very precarious legal problems regarding ownership, custody, and due access to items, that I do not feel has fully been explored or truly comprehended by either the Governor or the General Assembly.

I respectfully request the museums remain open and not be used as fuel for partisan battles. The permanent and irreplaceable loss of the Illinois State Museum is something all sides will certainly regret in years to come.

Sincerely,

Brian Leber

I, Teresa S. Everingham, 2181 S. Trenton Way, Apt. # 12-102, Denver, Co. 80231, oppose the closing of the Illinois State Museum System.

I am a professional nanny and have been for the last 15 years. I oppose the closing for the following reasons:

- 1) The professional staff will either lose or leave their jobs taking with them their irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.
- 2) Educational value - 2300 teachers and 40000 students visit the museum each year. Field trips to the museums are affordable resources to school districts. Lesson plans accompany the exhibits and additional educational resources can be accessed online. A valuable resource for nannies as well.
- 3) Visitors to the museums bring in 33 million dollars in revenue to the State of Illinois with 17 million in Springfield alone.

For these reasons I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Teresa S. Everingham

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council and as a former resident of Illinois and graduate of the University of Illinois. The Illinois State Museum system is one of the outstanding state museum systems in the United States. It preserves the history of Illinois and at the same time makes that history of the people of Illinois available to all the citizens of the State. The number of researchers and visitors to the system demonstrate that it is an asset to the education not only of Illinois citizens but also of citizens from other states and countries. I know that when states face financial challenges, hard decisions must be made, but the value of the ISM system provides so much value to the state which cannot be easily replaced. I can only describe the many benefits that the ISM system provides to the state of Illinois. In addition to the loss to the State of Illinois if the ISM is closed, we will also feel that loss in the Pennsylvania Archaeological community. One of my colleagues at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Sarah Neusius, is currently collaborating with curators from the ISM and other researchers from throughout the U.S. on a National Science Foundation grant. The grant will develop methods designed to use archaeological databases to solve research questions. This collaboration will allow researchers to better interpret archaeological data.

Although there may be short term financial savings in closing the ISM, in the long term, closure will cost more than it will save.

For example, the ISM is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. (Fewer than 5% of museums are accredited.) Closure means losing accreditation which could take years to get back.

The professional staff includes experienced and respected scientists, historians, and museum professionals, with specialties in fields such as anthropology, archaeology, the decorative arts, paleontology, botany, geology, and zoology. They will either leave or be let go, taking with them irreplaceable knowledge of the collections and their fields of expertise.

ISM facilities house and protect more than 12.5 million objects including artworks, scientific specimens, historic artifacts and documents, archaeological and ethnographic collections. They preserve our collective cultural and natural heritage. Closing the ISM ends access to these collections—and the knowledge which is generated—for both the public and researchers. Moving artifacts elsewhere will jeopardize these irreplaceable collections.

Closure will be costly for taxpayers and is a betrayal of the families of Illinois citizens who donated materials to the ISM museum with the understanding that they would be shared with the public in perpetuity. Some donors may pursue legal actions against the state regarding access and preservation. Closure especially impacts ISM's unique collection of Native American artifacts, including human remains and sacred tribal objects which are governed by written agreements and federal law.

ISM scientists conduct research that is internationally recognized, collaborating with others on complex, multi-disciplinary projects. Researchers rely on the Research and Collections Center in Springfield to do their work. University professors routinely expose their students, undergraduate to Ph.Ds.', to the expertise of the ISM staff, as well as collections and facilities. Closure will jeopardize our position and reputation as a state at the forefront of scientific research and development.

The ISM hosts public lectures, cultural events, concerts, and educational programs that help educate the public, build community partnerships, encourage civic engagement, and provides spaces where life-long friendships and business connections are made.

YOUTH EDUCATION

The MacLean Play Museum in Springfield engages young children in science education through creative play. It hosts "Saturplay," a free hands-on program that reached 7,000 people in 2014. The ISM's summer camp allows students to explore art and science in a fun-filled atmosphere that creates a love of learning. The ISM educational programs aimed at children serve the entire community and are especially important for low-income families.

2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children visit the ISM annually. A fieldtrip to one of the ISM facilities is affordable for school districts operating on tight budgets and is often a highlight of the year for students. Educational staff specialize in creating excellent lesson plans that accompany exhibits. Plans and other educational materials are available online to anyone who can access the internet.

Older students often volunteer at the museum as docents and research assistants. Their museum experience helps them succeed in school and prepares them to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as the social sciences and humanities.

NUMBERS

In 2014, the ISM system saw over 370,000 on-site visitors, including 2,300 teachers and 40,000 school children. Another 1.5 million virtual visitors used its online resources. Visitors were enriched by its educational, cultural, and economic opportunities.

Chicago Galleries and Illinois Artisans Shop: 103,000 visitors Dickson Mounds in
Lewistown: 50,000 visitors Lockport Gallery: 14,000 visitors Southern Illinois Art Gallery near
Sesser: 18,000 visitors Springfield: 200,000 visitors

Visitors to the ISM spend an estimated \$33 million dollars in Illinois each year. Nationally, visitors to historic, cultural and museum sites stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other tourists. The ISM site in Springfield alone contributes an estimated \$17 million to the local economy.

ISM facilities and grant projects add another \$8.4 million to the state economy in goods and services. ISM attracts about \$2 million in federal grants to Illinois each year.

The ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of 2015 FY state budget of \$87.4 billion. It is 0.157% of the 2015 FY \$4 billion shortfall.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you recommend against the closure of the Illinois State Museum System facilities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Beverly A. Chiarulli, PhD.

President, Pennsylvania Archaeological Council

I can't tell you how disappointed I was to here that Dickson Mounds museum and the State Museum were to be closed. They are both gems. I grew up in a small town in central Illinois (Ipava, population 600 people). Not only was Dickson Mounds one of the few tourist worthy locations we could take visitors, but it highlighted an unusual and distinct Native American population, and it's an innovative, interesting and educational museum in its own right. It is a shame to take away such an amazing resource from an area of Illinois that has so little.

The State Museum was an even more exciting trip for us with our family or school field trips. I still remember the dioramas, especially the one of a herd of buffalo with the thunderstorm in the distance, sound effects included. I was so inspired by the wolf display that I attempted to imitate to wolf call in the nicely resonant bathroom when I was about 7, embarrassing my sister and disconcerting the other museum visitors.

These museums are important draws for visitors and offer important educational opportunities to local residents. Please don't close them.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Sparks

To Whom It May Concern:

My sister told me about the possible closure of the Illinois State Museum and I greatly oppose such foolishness. I grew up in Springfield and often visit the museum when I come back to visit family. I currently design airplanes for the Boeing Company in the Seattle area and love science and natural history, as well as the history of human events. As a boy we often went to the museum and I still in my minds eye can see all the rocks that were on display, all the amazing dioramas of historical events, the tornado display and the full size preserved animals in dioramas of the different Illinois habitats. In short, the museum inspired me greatly as a boy and still does as an adult. To lose it would be a crying shame and a black mark on the fine state I grew up in.

Even though I no longer live in Illinois I am an Illinois taxpayer. You guys work for me I suppose! So as one of your non-resident taxpayers, please hear me and do not close the museum. Raise revenues some other way to pay for it please. In fact, invest in it more. Promote it for tourism and bring more dollars into Springfield's economy and into the Illinois state coffers. You people are smarter than the ones saying we should close it!

Sincerely,

Paul Dees

16653 178th Ave NE

Woodinville, WA 98072

When I was a kid, the yellow sculpture on the front porch of the Illinois State Museum was one of those iconic Springfield images that stuck with me in my mind. Things you see as a child resonate into a nostalgia that follows you your entire life. I was fascinated by the Native American display, the sweat beading on their bodies in the hot sun. It is amazing to go back in there 30 years later and the sweat hasn't moved an inch and I wonder how many children have had this same connection to this small group of people who are frozen in time. It does not seem real that they might still be there but no one can revisit that memory.

One of the proudest moments in my artistic career was when the Lincoln hat I painted was selected to sit on the front porch of the Illinois State Museum. I knew that just like those giant yellow french fries... something I had a hand in making would sit there long enough for an 8 year old to see it, and then see it again 30 years later and feel nostalgia for it the way I had... something that made them feel like a kid again. A connection to something that is one of a kind and always where you left it.

Felicia Olin

Supporting museums supports education, not just students but life-long learning of adult citizens.

Isobel Johnston.

To COGFA members:

Every cut to state programs will cause pain, but closing the Illinois State Museum is an extreme action that will not only cause pain through lay-offs and denial of access to the public; it is extraordinarily complicated and has wide-ranging effects.

The ISM is, at its heart, an *educational institution*. It has a staff of educators, as well as scientists and art curators. It brings a world of knowledge to children that the schools cannot possibly provide—look at the attached photo!

I have worked as a volunteer at a number of ISM events for children, including wonderful events for kids from the Boys and Girls Clubs, many of whom never visited a museum before. No one who has watched the faces of the children, seen their eager response to the wonders explained to them, could seriously consider closing this facility.

The ISM collections have been building since 1877—a unique record of art, culture, and natural history in our state. There are larger museums in Illinois, but nothing like the ISM, dedicated to *our state's own story*. Donors have trusted the Museum to preserve and display their gifts of art and artifacts and share them with the public.

There are hundreds of choices available for budget cutbacks. The Illinois State Museum should not be one of them.

Virginia Scott
Springfield, IL

My name is Andrea Keller. I live in West Virginia where I work at a small archaeological museum that is part of the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville, WV. My first full-time job in archaeology was as educator at the Dickson Mounds Museum (DMM). This first job was a great place to gain practical experience as well as to learn knowledge that is not taught in graduate school. I have taken this experience and knowledge to several jobs, including working as educator at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, working as an archaeological consultant in the private sector, working in permit review at the WV State Historic Preservation Office, and my current job, where I am cultural program coordinator.

Much of what I do in my current job has roots in that first job at Dickson Mounds: I guide school children through the museum and out to the Grave Creek Mound as I did at DMM, have developed hands-on programs for groups patterned on group programs we had at DMM, and have even been able to plant an Interpretive Garden similar to the garden I learned to plant and tend at DMM. Our programs here in West Virginia have greatly benefitted by all I learned while working in Illinois.

I am telling you this as an example of how Dickson Mounds Museum has profoundly influenced my career and consequently my personal life, allowing me to provide educational events for school groups as well as the general public that I hope also inspire our visitors to take what they have experienced in our museum and apply it to life at home. Our museum serves local citizens while also being a key attraction for tourism. Similarly, Dickson Mounds serves the citizens of Illinois with a variety of programs and entertainment, and I remember meeting many tourists as well. I speak German, and even was able to provide tours to occasional visitors from Germany right there in the middle of Illinois!

In addition to the public aspect, Dickson Mounds Museum has been a respected facility for researching and promoting archaeology and prehistory in Illinois. I learned much that has helped me in my professional life from this aspect of the museum as well.

It would be a shame to close Dickson Mounds Museum. This will deprive the area of tourist income, end services enjoyed that greatly enhance the local quality of life, and close an important research facility. Dickson Mounds has profoundly impacted my life, and, in turn, the lives of tens of thousands of people with whom I have had contact as an educator and program coordinator. Closing Dickson Mounds will not only affect the present, but also the future, as it will no longer be possible for people come here to learn. Please save this wonderful facility by keeping it open.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Andrea Keller
Moundsville, West Virginia

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very concerned about the proposed closure of the Illinois State Museum System. This closure should not happen.

I have been a member of the Museum Society for a long time. It supports the Illinois State Museum system as well as the artisan shops. I first heard in May that the Artisan Shop at Rend Lake was closing. This shop was an amazing place, with exhibits as well as an incredible place for Illinois artists to sell their art. It connected the public with the artists that live in our state. A smaller version is in the Museum in Springfield as well as another store at the Thompson Center in Chicago. But the one at Rend Lake was the largest and the most diverse. And now it is closed. It is a huge loss for this state as well as the artists and the public who discovered their art. There is no other place in this state that is comparable to that center. A jewel was lost when it was closed.

Now we learn that the fine governor wants to close the entire museum system. This includes several state museums as well as the artisan shops. As a retired teacher, I have a special love of the history available in these museums. As you often see in Springfield, those who do not know the lessons of history are doomed to repeat the same mistakes over and over again. We have a highly recognized and accredited museum system that preserves the natural and cultural history of Illinois. If it closes, many artifacts will be lost, grants will be gone, and projects eliminated. But highly qualified museum staff will also be lost and they will be very hard to replace.

I realize that many in this state think that money, business, and wealth are the only important things in life. But what of art and history, morals and ethics? The things that make life beautiful, meaningful, and worth living are equally important. We need to preserve the past as well as support the artists in this state. These actual and proposed closings are heartbreaking and should not happen. I hope you can find a way to preserve what is good in Illinois and keep the museums and the artisan shops open.

Sincerely,
Barb Pahlke
2602 N. 75th Ct.
Elmwood Park IL 60707

To the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

My name is Bev Adamczyk, I am a concerned citizen who is opposed to the closure of the Illinois State Museum.

I urge you to keep the ISM open. The ISM is a unique treasure to Illinois and its specific story in the world. We have a rich heritage and the ISM presents it in an engaging and thoughtful way. I am a teacher and have travelled from the suburbs north of Chicago with students. The students are always moved and their worlds made a little larger based on their experience in the ISM.

Keep the ISM open. Find a way to make the treasure available to future residents and tourists, especially children.

Sincerely,

Bev Adamczyk

As an undergraduate in History we studied the phrase, "Those who do not study history are doomed to repeat it." As a graduate student in History I had a professor who argued that the phrase meant nothing and was untrue. As an adult I know this much: When we do not protect our natural world, when we do not enlighten ourselves on the things which surround us, when we do not study the paths created by those people, plants and animals which came before us we doom ourselves to an existence devoid of meaning. What is the point of preserving the uniqueness of IL if we cannot immerse ourselves in the resources, history and culture of that state? If we are not going to ask taxpayers to pay for the things which make us proud to be from this state then let's forget the whole thing and become part of Indiana, Wisconsin or Iowa.

Please save the Illinois State Museum.

Carolyn Sloan
511 W 4th St.
Delavan, IL
61734

Dear Sir/Madame –

I respectfully oppose plans to close the five state museums, most prominent in my professional association being The State Museum in Springfield, IL and Dickson Mounds State Museum, Lewistown, IL. These facilities offer important conduits to research opportunities and data, and preserve a precious heritage of valuable, irreplaceable data and specimens. I have collaborated in education and research activities with members of the Dickson Mounds Museum on many occasions, and hold their professional insights and analysis in high esteem. A true loss of intellectual and cultural resources would be lost if the museums are closed, diminishing the State of Illinois. I fully support the Illinois State Museum System and urge the State of Illinois to do the same – please keep these museums open and supported adequately the good of the public, science, research, historical value, and cultural heritage.

Michael Lemke, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
University of Illinois Springfield

Please please do not close the Springfield location! Next to the Capital, close to Lincoln sites for touring & as a retired teacher, mom, & grandma, I'm saddened & shocked !! I was born & raised in Springfield.

Our children were frequent visitors with my dad, who just passed away 3 months ago. The museum workers knew them by names, & my daughter - a high school history & special Ed teacher just took my 92 year old mom there with our 2 1/2 year old granddaughter - who already knows who Mr Lincoln is.

Illinois history isn't getting passed on much in the educational system....

PLEASE keep it for families to pass on the state's knowledge, legacies, facts, stories, & experiences - where else will children go if these places are gone?

My heart aches for the future....

Sue Keasler

East Alton

Comments From:

Name: Kent Bouillon

Address: 110 S. Prairie St.

City/State/Zip: Greenville, IL 62246

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a concerned IL Citizen

I oppose closing the ISM because we need to preserve learning ^{& cultural} opportunities for all ages to preserve history & knowledge. Thank you!!

Sincerely, Kent Bouillon
Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Carolyn Myers

Address: 100 W. Winton

City/State/Zip: Greenville, IL 62200

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am ^a Concerned IL citizen!

I oppose closing the ISM because we need to protect our heritage & history!

Sincerely, Carolyn Myers
Date: July 21, 2015

Comments From:

Name: Liam McDowell

Address: 2512 Shawancong

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62711

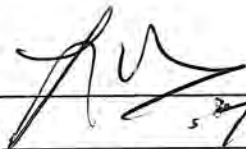
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, 
Date: 5/21/16

Comments From:

Name: Jerry Garrison

Address: 424 N 4th Apt 101

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

National land mark

Keep

Sincerely, Jerry Garrison

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Bna Kampmann

Address: 728 W. Walnut

City/State/Zip: Canton IL 61820

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

kids history
my autistic son loves
it.

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: David Amerson

Address: 1915 North G

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am David Amerson

I oppose closing the ISM because

I'm not a philistine.

Sincerely,

David

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Nannie Simmons

Address: 424 No. 4th St.

City/State/Zip: Spfld, Il.

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): 62702

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because *it is a national landmark & we need the Museum for people to learn about the past & future. People working there also need jobs.*

Sincerely, Nannie Simmons

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Kent Beauchamp

Address: 2915 Cindy Ln

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because it is ~~such~~ a
great educational resource

Sincerely,



Date:

10-21-15

Comments From:

Name: BETH HOFFMAN

Address: 3816 BELLEVUE DR.

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD, IL 62712

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because *it is our history and culture!*

Sincerely, *Beth Hoffman*

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Michael T Bamman

Address: 860 S Douglas Ave

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State
Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because museums are educational and enjoyable.

Sincerely, _____

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: April Godsil

Address: 22787 Beauchamp St,

City/State/Zip: Greenview, IL 62642

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Godsil@springnet1.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am April Godsil

I oppose closing the ISM because

We love it, we need it, it's
awesome! It is our Field Museum
of Natural History + Science + Industry, with
a Super Kids area + art gallery, too!
Please + thank
you!

Sincerely, April Godsil

Date: 7-19-15

Comments From:

Name: Jack Patton

Address: P.O. Box 89

City/State/Zip: Woodson IL 62695

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

inajgnon@hotmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,

Jack Patton

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: JASON REBLANDO

Address: 1701 E. EMERSON ST.

City/State/Zip: Bloomington, IL 61704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

jasonreblando@yahoo.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because *essential to culture + history of Illinois + U.S.*

Sincerely, *Jason Reblando*
Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Elizabeth C. Stuart

Address: 630 S. Amos

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62761

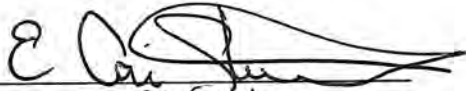
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
ecstuart3@hotmail.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because If it weren't for the ISM I would have my Master's thesis through UIS.

Sincerely, 
Date: 7.21.15

Comments From:

Name: Gail Runyon

Address: 13510 Clary Grove

City/State/Zip: Tallula, IL 62288

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

gRunyon15@hotmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because it's an important source of education, honoring our promise to Native Americans, a tourism interest

Sincerely, Gail Runyon

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Kathy Dehen

Address: 3004 Clifton

City/State/Zip: Spfld IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a former museum volunteer & ~~current~~ current patron. Walked from home to visit
I oppose closing the ISM because as a child,

We will lose our scientists
and their valuable research. We will
lose our amazing programs for children

Sincerely, Kathy Dehen

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Keiler Countryman

Address: 3565 Glenagate Dr

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL, 62774

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

J

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because It's family and history

Sincerely, 

Date: 6-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Daaron Kimmel

Address: 824 S Park Ave

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Daaron Kimmel,

I oppose closing the ISM because this great institution preserves our history and heritage for ourselves and generations to come. It provides opportunities for research and teaches science and history in an engaging way to children.

We must save it!

Sincerely, Daaron Kimmel

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Effie Barber
Address: 3148 Elmhurst Dr
City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62704
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

it is one of Illinois's cultural gems - possibly the shiniest!!

Sincerely,

Effie Barber
Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Marni Countryman

Address: 3565 Blongate Ave

City/State/Zip: Spartanburg, IL 62711

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because this institution educates our citizens, including youth, & is a landmark for our state & city! Do we really want all our larger museums only in Chicago? & not the research this museum conducts!

Sincerely, Marni Countryman

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Melinda Hall

Address: 11617 W Monroe St

City/State/Zip Springfield IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
traveller0112@yahoo.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Melinda Hall & I am against closing.

I oppose closing the ISM because it is not just another tourist site. It is our history, it is our heritage & it is a research resource

Sincerely, Melinda Hall
Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

^{Mrs}
Name: Val Watt
Address: 808 E. Lakeshore Dr
City/State/Zip: Springfield IL-6270
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

138 year history. The museum belongs to the people of IL, I am a tax payer - it belongs to all —

Sincerely, Mrs Val Watt

Date: 7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: C. M. Johnson

Address: P.O. Box 913

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am *A member in strong support of All units of the ISM*

I oppose closing the ISM because *The STATE MUSEUM*

is the Nation's 2nd Cultural Educational Branch of the State It families individuals for the Nation's Community of the State. Please support the ISM for the better generation.

Sincerely, C. M. Johnson

Date: 1/27/2017

Comments From:

Name: Amanda Winters

Address: 413 N. Elm St

City/State/Zip: Tallula, IL 62688

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Amanda Winters, a taxpayer and
lover of history +

I oppose closing the ISM because

History Matters. Museums
preserve our culture, don't
let us lose that.

Sincerely,

Amanda Winters

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Christina Hance

Address: 945 S. 2nd Apt 202

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62701

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Its important for a youth to have a cool place to go and learn

Sincerely, Christina Hance

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: JUDY REDDING

Address: 424 N 4TH ST #1503

City/State/Zip SPRINGFIELD IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because PEOPLE NEED THEIR JOBS TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR FAMILIES. PLEASE DON'T CLOSE THIS WONDERFUL HISTORIC LANDMARK!!

Sincerely, JUDY REDDING

Date: JULY 21 2015

Comments From:

Name: Jamey Burden

Address: 1501 1/2 S. Spring St

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL


Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Jamey Burden

I oppose closing the ISM because I believe in Arts & that it is necessary for a good future

Sincerely, 

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: JUDY REDDING

Address: 424 N 4TH ST #1503

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD ILL 62

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because **WE NEED PEOPLE TO COME AND SEE THE WONDERFUL PLACES THAT THE STATE OF ILLINOIS HAS FOR PEOPLE TO ENJOY. THE STATE MUSEUM HAS WONDERFUL ARTIFACTS AND ITEMS THAT NOT ONLY GROWNUPS BUT CHILDREN CAN COME AND SEE. WE NEED Sincerely, JUDY REDDING**
THIS PLACE TO BE KEPT OPEN Date: July 21, 2015
THIS IS A NATIONAL LANDMARK. PEOPLE NEED THEIR JOBS!!!

Comments From:

Name: Kathy Robinson

Address: 2404 Manchester

City/State/Zip: Spt 10, IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

we need to support our cultural institutions

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: Connie Belt

Address: 123 W. Madison

City/State/Zip: Greenview, IL 62642

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: Susan Haake

Address: 316 S. Adams Ave

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Susan.haake@sbcglobal.net

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a friend of the museum & a curator at another museum. This will not save any money & destroy history!

I oppose closing the ISM because

it may not be solving the cure for cancer, but it provides inspiration for those that are, it holds the records of past research & it is important to keep the access free & open.

Sincerely, Susan Haake

Date: July 21, 2015

Comments From:

Name: David W. Trout

Address: 2453 Tillawild Dr

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am *a new grandpa - close it now and they will never be able to visit.*
I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,



Date:

7/20/13

Comments From:

Name: Chad Rice

Address: 445 Johnson St.

City/State/Zip: CARLINVILLE, FL 62626

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

chadrice1@hotmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Chad Rice, Proud Supporter of

I oppose closing the ISM because

ISM.

Sincerely,

Chad Rice

Date:

7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Angie Wollesen

Address: 2500 Burton dr

City/State/Zip: Spfld IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Permanent-life79@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

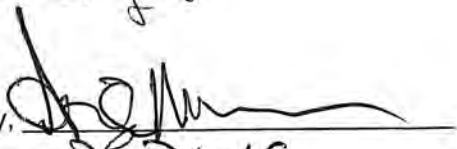
I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

We need to teach
our children history!

Sincerely,



Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Kerth Knuttila

Address: 430 8th

City/State/Zip: Lincoln IL 62656

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am A Router

I oppose closing the ISM because

It preserves The Richness of Illinois
It is not your Museum. It is Our Museum

Sincerely, [Signature]

Date: 7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: Jill Coughlin

Address: 1700 N. Ottawa St.

City/State/Zip: Lincoln, IL 62656

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

jill_bickel@yahoo.com

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Jill Coughlin

I oppose closing the ISM because I have volunteered & worked there for years. It is my family. Some of states brightest minds are housed there. If you close it they will be forced to move to other states.

Sincerely,

Jill Coughlin

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: TRACY Buscher

Address: 853 S MADISON

City/State/Zip: SPRNG IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am *a teacher*

I oppose closing the ISM because *it is so critical that our educational resources remain available.*

This museum offers history, science, art - it has it ALL!

≡

Sincerely, *Tracy Buscher*

Date: *7/28/2015*

Comments From:

Name: Stephen P. Ruff

Address: 820 S GLENWOOD

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

OUR HISTORY DEFINES US
AS A PEOPLE AND A STATE

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: Cynthia Knutilla

Address: 430 9th St.

City/State/Zip: Lincoln, Illinois 62656

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Cynthia Knutilla, a taxpaying IL
Citizen

I oppose closing the ISM because

Let's not be known as the state that destroyed its own cultural resources!

Sincerely, Cynthia Knutilla

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Arlene Flury

Address: 445 W. Caredy

City/State/Zip: Springfield, Ill 62764

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Is a cool place!

Sincerely, Arlene Flury

Date: 2-18-15

Comments From:

Name: FLAVIA BERNASER

Address: 1509 S. LINCOLN AVE

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because *the museum is a great resource for our community in education, history and support of tourism.*

Sincerely, Flavia Bernaser

Date: 7-21-2015

Comments From:

Name: MICK BERNASEK

Address: 1509 S. LINCOLN

City/State/Zip: SP40 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am MICK BERNASEK

I oppose closing the ISM because ITS HISTORY

Sincerely, MICK BERNASEK

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: PHIL COLBURN

Address: 1420 N. MILTON AVE

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD/IL/62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
COLBURNP93@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum Position: OPPOSED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am **OPPOSED!**

I oppose closing the ISM because

**I WANT OUR CULTURAL
HERITAGE & ART PRESERVED**

Sincerely, 

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Jacob Thornton

Address: 1913 Jeanette Ln Apt 1

City/State/Zip: Spfld IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Jakee_T@yahoo.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a disgruntled citizen

I oppose closing the ISM because

This museum is our heritage -
as a student in Pana, IL I remember
making trips up to learn about our history

Sincerely, [Signature]

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Amanda Kimmel

Address: 824 S Park

City/State/Zip: Spkld IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Amanda Kimmel, a mother that wants to pass on our history to my child.

I oppose closing the ISM because

it is a public good and allows learning, experiential learning, to child who could not otherwise afford it. As a society we value keeping our history alive with research, and education at ISM.

Sincerely, Amanda Kimmel

Date: 7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: Paul

Address: B. Town

City/State/Zip: SP19

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

Educational

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,

Date: _____

[Signature]

Comments From:

Name: Elizabeth Farrar

Address: 1001 N. 7th St.

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): 62702

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Elizabeth

I oppose closing the ISM because

the children's center in the basement is amazing,
My niece LOVES it.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Farrar

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Chere Ramirez

Address: 1321 S Ford

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Chere, Nelsa, many at maple Ramirez

I oppose closing the ISM because

It is a valuable public space that preserves and displays the history of our great state and our world. We need to educate our children so they don't end up like our governor, Dixon.

Sincerely, Chere Ramirez
Date: 7-19-15

Comments From:

Name: Cathy Walters
Address: 3 Old State Capital
City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62701
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am opposed

I oppose closing the ISM because Education,
Tourism, Keep Springfield &
Other towns alive.

Sincerely, Cathy Walters

Date: July 21, 2015

Comments From:

Name: LARRY Shiner

Address: 9 orchard lane

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
62712

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am opposed

I oppose closing the ISM because Its educational value for science & art - for 35 years I have taken my children & myself there every year.

Sincerely, Larry Shiner

Date: July 21, 2015

Comments From:

Name: Amy Jackson

Address: 2120 S. Noble

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

amosok@aol.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am outraged and saddened

I oppose closing the ISM because it is a vital institution in this County & State

and hope full
Sincerely, Amy F. Jackson
Date: 7/29/15

Comments From:

Name: Al Pieper

Address: 807 S Glenwood

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am **OPPOSED TO CLOSURE**

I oppose closing the ISM because A. It will cost not

save money B. This is a priceless part of Illinois culture and heritage C. The damage of closure cannot be undone

Sincerely,

Al Pieper

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Jan Sorenson

Address: 910 Osburn

City/State/Zip: Spfld Ill

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a Spfld residents

I oppose closing the ISM because the cultural history is important.

Sincerely,

Jan Sorenson

Date:

7 20-15

Comments From:

Name: Kelli Smith

Address: 3301 S. Dugas

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):


Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Illinois born and raised

I oppose closing the ISM because

our heritage shouldn't be lost over a drop in a bucket in state finances

Sincerely, 

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Asta Wilder

Address: 1103 N Rutledge St

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

✓ I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am supporting state Museum

I oppose closing the ISM because
out 4.6 mill
in 36 mill
+ 30.4 mill

Sincerely, 

Date: 2.21.15

Comments From:

Name: Najjar Abdul-Musawwir

Address: 2613 W. Kent Dr.

City/State/Zip: Carbondale, IL 62901

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

malikah2@juno.com

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum. l

I am !

I oppose closing the ISM because ,

Sincerely, 

Date: 7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: Rosalinda Posthuma

Address: 3013 Mill Brook

City/State/Zip: Spf IL 62204

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Art & retired art teacher

I oppose closing the ISM because Art = culture = history = civitization

Sincerely, Rosalinda Posthuma
Date: 7/20/15

Comments From:

Name: Jessie Watson

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: SPFLD

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

it was a treat for my family when i was a kid. My dad took us and i ~~for~~ never forget it

Sincerely, J. Watson

Date: 8-21-15

Comments From:

Name: JAMES KARASCH

Address: 230 E KENWOOD

City/State/Zip: 10 ECATUR IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,

James Karasch

Date:

7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Patrick Jaeggi

Address: 19 Taft Dr

City/State/Zip: Rochester IL 62563

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because *our states history should never be eliminated by a short sighted, mistakenly elected Governor*

Sincerely, Patrick Jaeggi

Date: 7-21-2013

Comments From:

Name: Sandra Cressy

Address: 324 N Stepp

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): 62702

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

*Rock Club meets
enriches lives of kids
and other people*

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: BOB CROTEAU

Address: 28 PAROLE RD

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62711

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

bob.croteau@sbeglobal.net

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

It embodies our cultural achievements

Sincerely, Bob Croteau

Date: 7.21.15

Comments From:

Name: Diane Einheuser

Address: 3107 Grant St

City/State/Zip: Spfld, IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

einheuser@shcglobal.net

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

I'm 61 and went here as a child
Now my Grandkids go often.

Sincerely Diane Einheuser

Date: 07-21-2015

Comments From:

Name: Michael Fuller
Address: 13530 Clayton Rd
City/State/Zip: St. Louis, Mo 63141
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a Professor at St. Louis Community College

I oppose closing the ISM because it would signal that education of Illinois history does not matter. Do not do it

Sincerely, Michael Fuller

Date: 21 July 2015

Comments From:

Name: Amy & Noah Cosgriff

Address: 245 N. 5th

City/State/Zip: Spfld IL 62701


Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
acosgriff@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, 
Date: 7/21/19

Comments From:

Name: Tracy Anderson

Address: 865 Oxford Dr

City/State/Zip: Chatham IL 62629

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,

Tracy Anderson

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

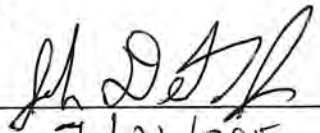
Name: John DeRosa
Address: 2208 Cheekberry Ln
City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62771
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a citizen of Springfield, ~~Illinois~~

I oppose closing the ISM because history and education are nothing but good for society. Education opportunities for kids are important!

Sincerely, 
Date: 7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: Lindsay Langer

Address: 2208 Checkerberry Ln

City/State/Zip: Spfld, IL 62711

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Lindsay.Langer@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am citizen of Sangamon County & granddaughter of a former employee of ISM.

I oppose closing the ISM because it is what makes Springfield so special to me. I grew up going to the ISM. My grandma worked so hard for many many years making/recreating prehistoric animals that helped teach me

Sincerely, Lindsay Langer

Date: 7/21/2015

about my home. I want my kids to have the same experience!!!

Comments From:

Name: David Morgan

Address: 2061 Huntleigh Rd

City/State/Zip: Spfld 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because *the economic benefits to our community are great. The educational benefits to our community are great as well. It is penny wise and pound foolish to close the museum.*

Sincerely, David C. Morgan

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: ERIC CRADDOCK

Address: 945 S 2ND #204

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): 6201

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am ERIC CRADDOCK

I oppose closing the ISM because KNOWLEDGE IS

IMPORTANT

Sincerely, 

Date: 07/21/15

Comments From:

Name: DEB TAYES

Address: 4020 Hilltop Rd

City/State/Zip: ALTO PASS, IL 62905

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because
its just WRONG!

Sincerely,

Deb Tays

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: JOE COFFEY

Address: 1313 W. WALKER

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am A FATHER, BROTHER, SON, UNCLE,
COMMUNITY MEMBER

I oppose closing the ISM because IT WOULD DEPRIVE
KIDS, FAMILIES, AND ADULTS IMPORTANT
EDUCATIONAL & HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Sincerely,

JOE COFFEY

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: J STEVENS

Address: 1631 N. NAGLE AVENUE

City/State/Zip: CHICAGO, IL 60707

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: MIKE JACKSON

Address: 2120 S. NOBLE

City/State/Zip: SPFLD IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum Position: OPPOSED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because IT MATTERS,

Sincerely, Mike Jackson
Date: 2/21/15

Comments From:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip : _____

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum Position: OPPOSED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: Jane Stevens

Address: 1631 N. Nagle

City/State/Zip: Chicago IL 60707

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

janestevensart@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

11

Sincerely,



Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: AVIANA ENZELING

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: DAVIS CA 95616

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a scientist + student.

I oppose closing the ISM because it's a fucking mistake to take money away from education.

Sincerely, _____



Date: 7.21.19

Comments From:

Name: Paula Long

Address: 21 Greenbrier

City/State/Zip: Benton AR 72015

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Paula Long

I oppose closing the ISM because

the inherent need for education and learning open to the public

Sincerely, Paula Long

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Vicki Bamman

Address: 860 S Douglas

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62204

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because it is a great resource. I often take international visitors there to help them understand that Illinois is more than just Lincoln

Sincerely, Vicki Bamman

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Paige Ottenfeld

Address: 1505 Gates Mill Dr.

City/State/Zip: Knoxville TN 37934

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

p.ottenfeld42@students.tntech.edu

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Paige Ottenfeld

I oppose closing the ISM because Education is one of the most important things in ensuring the success of our future. SAVE THE ISM

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: Barbara J Baldon

Address: 15 Providence Ln,

City/State/Zip: Spfld, IL 62711

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

bjbaldon@yahoo.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because the museum is a part of

Illinois history & my history. It is an educational venue, a family venue & it provides free activities. I have young members at my church that attend & enjoy these activities.

Sincerely,

Barbara J Baldon

Date:

7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: The Baz Family

Address: 3125 Allis St

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am the mother of two history lovers,
I oppose closing the ISM because whose else will,
my kids learn the history and
heritage?

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: Michael Graf

Address: 6 Sarah Avenue

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Thegraf@mail@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**


I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a concerned Illinois resident

I oppose closing the ISM because I care about science + education and hope to keep important resources like the ISM available to our children

Sincerely,

Date:


21. July, 2015

Comments From:

Name: Dhannon Gurley

Address: 4108 S. Primrose

City/State/Zip: Quincy, IL 62451

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am sad we even have protest for this,

I oppose closing the ISM because

It's one of the only places for professional art galleries in town, among other reasons.

Sincerely, 
Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Cynthia J. Phillipe
Address: 613 W. Edwards
City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62702
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
CJP1125@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am An Illinois resident
A Voter; An Archaeologist
(Professional)

I oppose closing the ISM because

we need educational facilities; free places for kids; A repository for our historic artifacts

Sincerely, Cynthia Phillipe

Date: 7/2/15

Comments From:

Name: PATRICK Johnopolus

Address: 317 W WASHINGTON

City/State/Zip: 62701 - SPRINGFIELD

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

PAT517@YAHOO.COM

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,



Date:

7-21-2015

Comments From:

Name: JANIS DAPPERT

Address: 1180 REID RD.

City/State/Zip: WINCHESTER IL

621694
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

janis.dappert@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State
Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a museum advocate small museum

I oppose closing the ISM because the people's history is stored here & is a true treasure to us all

Sincerely, Janis Dappert
Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: AMANDA MOSRE

Address: 1139 W. ILES AVE

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD IL 62709

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

panda.jo.71@hotmail.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation against closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am AMANDA & MILLA MOSRE

I oppose closing the ISM because nothing replaces art, science & history! Other options are available & change needs to start at the top!

Sincerely, Amanda J Moser

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Jaime Myers

Address: 315 E. Vine

City/State/Zip: Greenmill IL 62246

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

JA

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am concerned Il. citizen

I oppose closing the ISM because we need to preserve

our heritage + history! "Least we forget"

Sincerely, Jaime Myers

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Sharon Graf

Address: 6 Sarah Avenue

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
sspgraf@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum Position: OPPOSED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am an Illinois resident and concerned citizen.

I oppose closing the ISM because the expertise we now have cannot easily be recovered. Closure will cause damage to our excellent programs,

Sincerely, 
Date: July 21, 2015

Comments From:

Name: Rachel Sanchez

Address: 439 West Vine St

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

This is where my Dreams started.

Sincerely, 

Date: 07/21/15

Comments From

Name: Ryan Mobley

Address: 1055 N 6th St.

City/State/Zip: SPFD, IL 62702

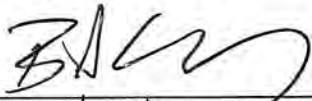
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am **AGAINST** closing ISM.

I oppose closing the ISM because **HISTORICAL & CULTURAL VALUE, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN, AND NEED FOR RECREATION FOR FAMILIES.**

Sincerely, 
Date: 7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: Deb Russell

Address: PO Box 578

City/State/Zip: SP 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am OPPOSED!

I oppose closing the ISM because this treasure belongs to the people!

Sincerely, _____

Date: 7.21.15

Comments From:

Name: CURT REYNOLDS

Address: 839 S DOUGLAS

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

curt.reynolds@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

IT IS A GREAT RESOURCE FOR EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
AND PRESERVATION OF HISTORY AND NATURAL
HISTORY OF ILLINOIS

Sincerely, Curt Reynolds

Date: 21 July 2015



Comments From:

Name: Bill Shea

Address: 1720 S. Lowell Ave

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62744

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

bill.g.shea.jr@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Wm. Shea

Date: 3-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Patrick Knox

Address: 500 S. State

City/State/Zip: 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

pknox@springfieldperks.org

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am disgruntled.

I oppose closing the ISM because

2nd floor art galleries (SFID)
feature living + working
IL Artists - Etc... Etc.

Sincerely, Patrick Knox

Date: 7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: Fan Chafic

Address: 8137 W 90th St

City/State/Zip: Harvey Hills IL 60157

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

The museum is the primary
custodian of our state's history

Sincerely, Fan Chafic

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Tina Jannazzo

Address: 1033 S. Walnut

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

tjannazzo@yahoo.com

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am against closure

I oppose closing the ISM because

every child, adult, seasoned adult deserves the right to learn about their past and the state has the responsibility to provide this.

Sincerely,

Tina Jannazzo

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: L. Murphy.

Address: 1608 Clearview

City/State/Zip: _____

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a retired teacher. Education

I oppose closing the ISM because ^{for all ages} benefits everyone.

Sincerely, Hinda Murphy

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Bryan Evans

Address: 5246 Buford

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

History is important and if it wasn't for the history and museums why would any one come to Springfield?

Sincerely, Bryan

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Debra Chafee

Address: 8137 W 90th St

City/State/Zip: Hickory Hills IL 60157

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Our Children need this

Sincerely, Debra Chafee

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Justin Brand

Address: 3103 Tengel's Ave #30

City/State/Zip: Joliet IL 60435

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

jbrand@psdada.org

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State
Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Justin Brand

I oppose closing the ISM because I believe in education and the museum's role of educating children and inspiring the love of learning!

Sincerely,

Justin Brand

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Frank Prochaska

Address: PO Box 1484

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62705

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

fprochaska@comcast.net

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a parent, student, and citizen

I oppose closing the ISM because it is part of government's responsibility to preserve, protect, display, and educate about our art, science, and natural history.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Sandy Kennedy

Address: 1050 Toronto Rd.

City/State/Zip: Spfld. IL 62712

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a high school teacher!

I oppose closing the ISM because

it is a valuable resource
for future generations + our
scientists/researchers cannot be replaced!

Sincerely, Sandy Kennedy

Date: 7/29/15

Comments From:

Name: Cindy Metz

Address: 6 Settlers Ln.

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
cmetz2@comcast.net

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum Position: OPPOSED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am educator & parent

I oppose closing the ISM because children learn valuable information about our state.

Sincerely, Cindy Metz
Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: CAROL Schmidt

Address: 835 S. HENRIETTA

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Carol Schmidt

Date: 07/21/2013

Comments From:

Name: PAUL Countryman

Address: 3565 Glengate

City/State/Zip: Spfld, IL 62711

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed: Illinois State Museum Position: OPPOSED WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Culture shapes the world!

Sincerely, 
Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: KIRK JOHNSON

Address: 2332 W. Lake Dr.

City/State/Zip: Spfld, IL 62712

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**


WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Its wrong !!!

Sincerely, 

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Suli Dowling

Address: 3012 Cottage Dr.

City/State/Zip: Spring IL 62712


Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
gsd24@aol.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, 
Date: 21 Jul 2015

Comments From:

Name: Joni Stricklen

Address: 2705 Westport Dr

City/State/Zip: Spfld IL 62711

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**


WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,



Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Aiyana Davis

Address: _____

City/State/Zip : _____

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Aiyana Davis

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Ravyn Varela

Address: 3357 S 3rd

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL, 62783

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Ravyn Varela

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Brady E. En

Address: 627 Main St

City/State/Zip: Co. Va

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

proper do not close
the museum you will
be destroying a lot
of history

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: Heather Bell

Address: 24398 Indwain Pt

City/State/Zip: Athens, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because ~~it~~ it preserves the history + art + knowledge of the state of Illinois. We need specialists, not privatized political hacks to serve.

Sincerely, Heather Bell

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: JOHN JEWETT

Address: 469 JUNIPER LANE

City/State/Zip: PETERSBURG, IL 62675

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
Illinois State
Museum
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because IT WILL DO NOTHING TO REDUCE THE DEBT AND OVERALL IT WILL COST MORE IN TOURISM AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY ISM PROFESSIONAL STAFF. THE LOSS ~~WOULD BE~~ WOULD BE IMMENSURABLE.

Sincerely, 

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Patricia Korzeniewski

Address: 1251 Blaine St.

City/State/Zip: Crown Pt. IN 46307


Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because it is history, culture & education! Can not close!

Sincerely, 

Date: 06-21-15

Comments From:

Name: WILLIAM NACCIS

Address: 126 GENOA DR

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a taxpaying voter.

I oppose closing the ISM because it's too important to the city & its citizens. Don't deny future generations this city's state treasure.

Sincerely, William Naccis

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Trevor OLCECH

Address: 1526 W. COOK

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): ^{02/04}

TOLCECH@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,



Date:

07/21/13

Comments From:

Name: Cheryl Staley

Address: 39 Crestview

City/State/Zip: Chatham IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Cheryl Staley
Date: 7/24/15

Comments From:

Name: Khaleelah Muta-Ali

Address: 2613 W. Kent Dr.

City/State/Zip: Carbondale, IL 62901

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Khaleelahma@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am !

I oppose closing the ISM because !

Sincerely,

Khaleelah Muta-Ali

Date:

7/2/15

Comments From:

Name: Judy Gans
Address: 4530 River Bluff Rd
City/State/Zip: Mechanicsburg, IL
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because loss of research!

Sincerely, J Gans
Date: 1/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: Donna Bussell

Address: 844 S. Glenwood Ave

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
donnabjammie@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because it is one of the most valuable resources for the state! Economically & culturally!

The attempt to close it will not help our budget deficit

Sincerely, Donna Bussell

Date: July 21, 2015

Comments From:

Name: SARAH ENLOW

Address: 2117 MARLAND

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

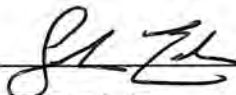
Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am an aunt that wants to bring her niece & nephew to the museum so they can enjoy the fun & beneficial offerings the museum provides.

Sincerely,



Date: 07.21.15

Comments From:

Name: Jennifer Ramm

Address: 1117 Harmony Ct.

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a chemistry professor at Lincoln Land Community College

I oppose closing the ISM because

our children need to be scientifically literate in order to be competitive in the job market for IL. The museum excites and educates kids in the STEM fields!

Sincerely, Jennifer Ramm

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Michael Staley

Address: 39 Crestview

City/State/Zip: Chatham IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am concerned. parent

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,


Michael Staley

Date:

1/24/15

Comments From:

N.
A.
C

 David Richardson
2621 Farragut Dr.
Springfield, IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

The ISM is 138 years of acquired heritage!

Sincerely, David Richardson

Date: 20150723.

Comments From:

Name: Carol J. Bailey

Address: 2757 S. 4th St. Apt. B

City/State/Zip: Spfld., IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Carol J. Bailey

Date: July 22, 2015

Comments From:

Name: Harry M VanHoudnos

Address: 400 E Madison St #410

City/State/Zip Springfield, IL 62701

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

harryvard@hotmail.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am 55

I oppose closing the ISM because it not only affects Springfield, but many other places as well

Sincerely, 

Date: 7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: JON AUSTIN

Address: 1047 W. STATE ST.

City/State/Zip: JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

museum3@msn.com

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a CITIZEN, ILLINOIS NATIVE, AND MUSEUM PROFESSIONAL

I oppose closing the ISM because MUSEUMS EXIST AS PUBLIC TRUSTEES AND PUBLIC CHARITIES THAT ARE ESTABLISHED AS PERMANENT AND PERPETUAL INSTITUTIONS TO COLLECT, CARE FOR, AND EXHIBIT ARTIFACTS OWNED BY THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

Sincerely,

Jon Austin

Date:

JULY 21, 2015

Comments From:

Name: Beverly Anderson

Address: 2644 S. 10th St

City/State/Zip: Spfld, IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Beverly Anderson

I oppose closing the ISM because its value is more than its cost.

Sincerely, B. Anderson

Date: 7.21.15

Comments From:

Name: ROBERT ANDERSON

Address: 2644 S 10TH ST

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): 62703

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am 

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, ROBERT ANDERSON

Date: 7-22-15

Comments From:

Name: Ralph Staley

Address: 424 N 45th 1311

City/State/Zip: Sp, FL, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because *this would be a great loss to SPFLD and our community.*

Sincerely, Ralph Staley
Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Susan S. Richardson

Address: 2621 Farragut

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62704

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a retired educator/state employee

I oppose closing the ISM because

Closure may result in the museum's loss of accreditation, which would damage Illinois' reputation nationally and internationally.

Sincerely, Susan S. Richardson

Date: July 27, 2015

Comments From:

Name: Emma Todd
Address: 2201 Stanhope Rd
City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62702
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
emma.todd2987@gmail.com

Facility Being Closed:
Illinois State
Museum
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am a concerned Illinois resident

I oppose closing the ISM because

the Illinois State Museum preserves the history, geology, and archaeology of the state of Illinois and has offered me a better understanding of the world while growing up in Springfield. It also helps raise money for the local economy by increasing tourism.

Sincerely,

Emma Violet Todd

Date:

7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Craig K. Bailey

Address: 2707 S. 4th Ave. B

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL 62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
Illinois State
Museum
Position: OPPOSE
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Craig Bailey, opposed to the museum closure

I oppose closing the ISM because

- 1) It deprives over 200,000 people per year from seeing the natural and cultural history of Illinois.
- 2) Staffing will be so thin that they can not preserve the 13.5 million artifacts or look them to other means.
- 3) Cannot conduct studies

Sincerely Craig K. Bailey

Date: July 22, 2015

Comments From:

Name: Jeffery Jones

Address: 424 N. FOUR Apt 812

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): 62702

1/A

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Jeff Jones
Date: 1/15

Comments From:

Name: ROBERT W Lemay

Address: 424 N 4TH ST 304

City/State/Zip: SPRINGFIELD IL 62762

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Robert W Lemay

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Ken Vance

Address: 924 N. 4th St

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Kenneth.Vance@att.net

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Kenneth Vance

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name Charles Kaltrider

Address: 424 W 4th St

City/State/Zip Springfield IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State
Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because THE MUSEUMS ARE STATE HISTORIC SITES THAT NEED TO BE SAVED. THE CHILDREN COULD HAVE NO PLACE TO GO TO LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORICAL EVENTS AND THINGS THAT ~~FOUND~~ WERE FOUND AROUND THE STATE. THE BIG WIGS NEED TO KEEP THE BUSINESSES OPEN FOR PEOPLE TO KEEP THEIR JOBS AND LET PEOPLE COME IN TO LEARN AND SEE WONDERFUL THINGS.

Sincerely, Charles Kaltrider

Date: 7-24-15

Comments From:

Name: Doris Surratt

Address: 424 N. 4th # 1507

City/State/Zip: Spfld, IL.

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am *outraged* the Capitol city would close a major tourism attraction that helps our revenue.

I oppose closing the ISM because 3 generations of my family have gone there numerous times and I'd love to see this tradition continue.

Sincerely, Doris Surratt

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Pat Rhodes

Address: 424 N 4th Apt 1513

City/State/Zip: SPfld Ill 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

That building has been there for years when I was a child I went to the museum all the time I am totally against closing for the sake of our children its about the only thing we see that is free

Sincerely,

Pat Rhodes

Date:

7-22-15

Comments From:

Name: Jim A. Moffitt

Address: _____

City/State/Zip : _____

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, _____

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: Paul L. Middlebrook Sr.

Address: 424 N. 4th ST. APT 610

City/State/Zip: SPRFD, IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State
Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am **AGAINST CLOSING IT.**

I oppose closing the ISM because **IT BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF IL.**

Sincerely, Paul L. Middlebrook Sr.

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Shirley Baynes

Address: 424 N4 apt 918

City/State/Zip: Springfield Ill 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Long Time

Sincerely, Shirley Baynes

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: DOUG RATT

Address: _____

City/State/Zip : _____

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because *We need to keep the Museum open as it is a part of our heritage as Illinoisans. It is an important tourist attraction.*

It needs to stay open.

Sincerely, DOUG RATT

Date: _____

Comments From:

Name: Marsha Pukas
Address: 424 North St #509
City/State/Zip: Spfld, IL 62702
Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Marsha Pukas
Date: July 21, 2015

Comments From:

Name: Thomas EARL

Address: 424 N 4TH Apt 102

City/State/Zip: Springfield 21162702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely,

Thomas Earl

Date:

6-18-15

Comments From:

Name: Melinda Miller

Address: 424 North A 605

City/State/Zip: 2707

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

wl.miller@gnn.com

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am we was for the time

I oppose closing the ISM because

Retired teachers
want education for all

Sincerely, MLM

Date: 7/21/15

Comments From:

Name: Don Doroshoff

Address: 424 N. 4th St. 1313

City/State/Zip: SpId. 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

dondoroshoff@yahoo.com

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because it is a cultural step back and would adversely affect too many voters

Sincerely, W Doroshoff ^{People}

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Dorene Johnson

Address: 424 N. 4th St, 1212 Apt

City/State/Zip Springfield IL 62702

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Dorene Johnson

Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Lupe Mosley

Address: 2145 S 19th

City/State/Zip: Spfld, FL 32703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Lupe Mosley
Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: HARRY MCKENZIE

Address: 424 No. 4th ST

City/State/Zip: Springfield, IL

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

**Illinois State
Museum**

Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

a museum is a place of learning & enjoyment for all ages, nationalities, & races. Plus it also is a part of our history of the world

Sincerely,

Harry McKenzie

Date:

HARRY MCKENZIE
7/21/2015

Comments From:

Name: BARBARA RODGERS

Address: 424 NO 4

City/State/Zip: Springfield, Ill.

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt): _____

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED**
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Please don't take our rights from us ^{CE}
the older we get the more you take,
stop it now

Sincerely, Barbara Rodgers

Date: 7-21-2015

Comments From:

Name: Patricia MATTHEWS

Address: 2210 E. Cook #6

City/State/Zip: Springfield IL
62703

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):
N/A

Facility Being Closed:
**Illinois State
Museum**
Position: **OPPOSED
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am

I oppose closing the ISM because

Sincerely, Patricia Matthews
Date: 7-21-15

Comments From:

Name: Heather Godsil

Address: 22787 Beauchamp

City/State/Zip: Greenview, IL 62642

Email (if you want confirmation of receipt):

Facility Being Closed:

Illinois State

Museum

Position: **OPPOSED**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

I urge the Commission to make a recommendation **against** closing the Illinois State Museum.

I am Heather Rose Godsil.

I oppose closing the ISM because

IT IS THE GREATEST MUSEUM IN HISTORY

Sincerely,

Heather Godsil!

Date:

8/3/15

I ♥ ISM