

March 15, 2007

Hon. _____
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator/Representative _____:

I am writing to make sure you are aware that the Ohio Historical Society and the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park are submitting some of Ohio's most outstanding archaeological sites for consideration to be placed on the World Heritage Site List. The List is administered by the international World Heritage Committee, which is advised by an international council of experts. World Heritage Sites are selected on the basis of being the most outstanding examples of the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Serpent Mound, an effigy mound in Adams County, is being considered for nomination along with SunWatch Village/Archaeological Park in Dayton. Fort Ancient in Warren County, Newark Earthworks in Licking County, and the sites that comprise Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Ross County have been grouped for consideration as a serial nomination of earthworks constructed by the Hopewell culture. These sites are all outstanding examples of internationally significant archaeological sites within Ohio and as required by the National Park Service, which manages the program in the United States, are recognized as National Historic Landmarks.

A listing on the World Heritage Sites List elevates local and international awareness about the site's value, further encourages communities to protect and invest in their preservation, and increases potentially beneficial tourism to the site. In any country, foreign visitors customarily put more money into the local economy than domestic tourists. Currently, there are 830 World Heritage Sites in 138 countries. There are only 20 in the United States.

I would like to urge your support for these two nominations by endorsing a resolution in the Ohio General Assembly and by including a letter of support for the nomination packet. The Ohio Historical Society is requesting letters of support to be sent to:

George Kane, Director of Facilities Management
Ohio Historical Society
1982 Velma Ave.
Columbus, OH 43211

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,