



## PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

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April 15, 2022

Roy F. Young, II  
President, Chief Executive Officer  
The Montpelier Foundation  
11350 Constitution Highway  
Montpelier Station, VA

Dear Mr. Young,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council (PAC), we are disappointed to read about your recent decision to end a plan to share power with the Montpelier Descendants Committee (MDC), an arrangement that would have guided the future operations of the historic Montpelier property. In addition, we understand that archaeological staff have been threatened, because of their willingness to speak up about that decision.

A year ago, your Foundation took a forward-thinking move to share decisionmaking, ultimately to share power, with the MDC, which was the official organization representing descendants of the enslaved workers who built the place you now manage. As stewards of this National Trust property, the Foundation's charge includes both the maintenance of the property as well as the telling of its story. The decisions about what takes priority in each can and should be informed by all the voices involved in its history. Your original plan to fully involve the MDC would have fulfilled this model of stewardship. Your recent actions have undone it.

PAC serves as the statewide organization of professional archaeologists. We have found that involving all stakeholders results in better archaeology and better story telling. In your case, having the MDC at the table to guide research, including archaeological research, opens a vista into new knowledge and important perspectives that would otherwise be missed. PAC asks that you return to your original stewardship model as quickly as possible, and build the necessary bridges with MDC you need for the proper management of Montpelier.

Sincerely,

Ira Beckerman, President

Cc: Paul Edmonson, President and CEO, National Trust for Historic Preservation