

**Florida Archaeological Council
1544 Cristobal Dr
Tallahassee, FL 32303**

June 15, 2005

National Trust for Historic Preservation
Rural Heritage Development Initiative
Statewide & Local Partnerships Office
Center for Preservation Leadership
Attn: Valecia Crisafulli
1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Crisafulli:

Florida Archaeological Council is the statewide organization of professional archaeologists working in Florida. Our members are involved in and guide the development and implementation of nearly all archaeological programs, activities, and mandates in the state. We write in support of The Original Florida Tourism Task Force's proposal for the Rural Heritage Initiative pilot program sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The Original Florida Tourism Task Force has been working since 1993 to promote heritage and eco-tourism in North Central Florida. North Florida has a wealth of archaeological resources worthy of responsible management and public visitation and can benefit greatly from additional tourism. While state and local agencies as well as universities and museums actively work toward the care and interpretation of archaeological resources, the greatest gains in tourism and public access are possible in the non-profit sector. Our support of this initiative is based in the belief that it can significantly increase the recognition and care of the unique archaeological, historic and cultural assets of this special region.

I urge you to choose the Original Florida Tourism Task Force for this exciting pilot program.

Sincerely,

James J. Miller, PhD, RPA
President, Florida Archaeological Council