

April 12, 2000

Mr. Lee H. Warner
Executive Director
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

Dear Mr. Warner,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the Draft Regulations for the Alabama UnderWater Cultural Resources Act. I won't be able to come to Mobile on April 27 because I will be in the Bahamas on a dive that week. But, I do think that the people that this impacts should be notified.

I know that you were not the director last year when this act was slipped through; and it was slipped through. I'm the president of Southern Skin Divers Supply, we're the oldest dive store in the South, 47 years old; and I personally have 35 years experience diving with over 5000 dives. I'm considered one of the most knowledgeable people on artillery projectiles from the War Between the States. Museums use me or my sons for preservation work on artifacts. I didn't know anything about this proposed act last year until it had slipped through the legislature. No other dive store in this state that I know of; and I contacted all that I could, knew anything about this. Unless the state historical department's objective is to start arresting divers, relic hunters, gold prospectors in Alabama by the thousands I don't understand why you would have these ridiculous proposed regulations.

I'm sending a magazine on gold prospecting and literature on metal detectors and dredging, along with a couple of articles written about myself and the dive store. You might want to see who is being affected by these regulations. The only people allowed to have permits will be professional archeologists, this is totally ridiculous! First of all, the state doesn't have any competent archeologists to dive in most of the rivers of this state, where there is black water and it is dangerous. This act was slipped through by professional museum bureaucrats and it now tries to make those people the only ones who can look for or find relics or even gold in Alabama. The rivers of this state do not belong