

JAY INSLEE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 22, 2015

Brigadier General John S. Kem  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Northwestern Division  
PO Box 2870  
Portland, OR 97208

Dear General Kem:

I am writing in response to new information regarding the affiliation of the Ancient One, otherwise known as Kennewick Man.

Now that DNA analysis has demonstrated a genetic link to modern Native Americans, including those in the state of Washington, I am requesting that the Ancient One be repatriated to the appropriate Tribes as expeditiously as possible. Our Washington State tribes have waited nineteen years for the remains to be transferred for reburial. During this time, several studies have been completed, from the recent DNA analysis to numerous books. Rarely have Native American human remains been subjected to such intensive investigations and examinations.

While I fully appreciate the importance of scientific inquiry, the cultural needs of our state's Tribes must also be met and balanced accordingly. The latest results, having ended many of the questions surrounding the identity of Kennewick Man, means that it is time we respect the Tribes repeated requests for repatriation.

If repatriation cannot be handled expediently through your agency, then I am requesting you find a means to transfer the remains to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. No further study will be required by the state agency, and they are experts in the repatriation process.

Please provide me with a timeline for either the repatriation process or transfer to the state of Washington.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee  
Governor