



## ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 27566, Tempe, AZ 85282

July 8, 2013

Representative Ann Kirkpatrick  
House of Representatives  
504 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

As the President of the Arizona Archaeological Council (AAC), I am writing in support of **House Bill 2497**, the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Boundary Modification Act of 2013. The bill supports a land transfer that will result in an expansion of the current boundaries of the Casa Grande Ruins National Park in Pinal County, Arizona.

The AAC, a non-profit voluntary association that promotes the goals of professional archaeology in Arizona, is dedicated to preserving cultural resources through education and advocacy. The Council embraces a diverse membership drawing from avocationalists; academics; private business; local communities; and federal, state, and tribal agencies throughout the state of Arizona.

The Casa Grande Ruins National Monument is the first archaeological preserve in the Nation. It was established to preserve the finest and best-known exemplar of a style of architecture that the ancient Hohokam engineered and built. The Hohokam, one of the major ancient cultural traditions of the American Southwest, are the ancestors of the historic and contemporary Akimel O'odham and Tohono O'odham communities of central and southern Arizona, who regard the National Monument as a symbol of their cultural heritage and identity. Casa Grande is also the only monument in the National Park System to showcase the lives and culture of the Hohokam people.

The expanded boundary achieved by this bill will augment the Park's educational and interpretive mission and help to protect and preserve the vital archaeological resources in the area surrounding the National Monument. Also, under this bill, the expanded area would encompass portions of two important Hohokam-era archaeological sites in the vicinity: Adamsville Ruin and the Grewe Site. The latter site preceded and gave rise to the Casa Grande village, and thus its significances with respect to scientific research and cultural heritage rivals that of the National Monument itself.

We thank you for your attention and hope that you will continue to propose and support bills that promote the management, preservation, and study of archaeological resources in Arizona and throughout the Nation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted M. Roberts', with a stylized, cursive flourish.

Ted M. Roberts, M.A., RPA  
President, Arizona Archaeological Council

Cc: Representative Paul Gosar, U.S. House of Representatives  
Representative Raúl Grijalva, U.S. House of Representatives  
Representative Ed Pastor, U.S. House of Representatives