May 13, 2009

Cultural Properties Review Committee
c/o Historic Preservation Division
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501
HPDplanning.program@state.nm.us

To New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee:

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) enthusiastically supports the nomination of Mount Taylor as a traditional cultural property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Mexico and the State Register of Cultural Properties. The AAA was founded in 1902 and is the primary professional society of anthropologists in the United States. With more than 11,000 members, it is the world’s largest professional organization of individuals interested in anthropology.

Perusal of the nomination form available at http://www.nmhistoricpreservation.org/ indicates there is no question that Mount Taylor is a significant traditional cultural property that has integrity of location, setting, feeling and association for the five tribes who prepared the form: Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Laguna, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, and Hopi Tribe. Mount Taylor clearly meets the eligibility requirement for significance under National Register Criteria A, B, and D. From an anthropological perspective, Mount Taylor plays a key role in the retention and transmission of the traditional cultures of the five tribes, and this is what makes it a significant historic property eligible for the State and National Registers.

The American Anthropological Association is pleased to see five tribes work together to participate in the historic preservation system of the United States by nominating a traditional cultural property to the State and National Registers.

In making its determination of eligibility, we encourage the New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee to give due consideration to the historicity and qualities of Mount Taylor that make it eligible for the State and National Registers. Mount Taylor is a significant historic property, fully deserving of being recognized as a significant traditional cultural property for the Acoma, Laguna, Navajo, Zuni, and Hopi tribes.

We appreciate your prompt consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Damon Dozier, AAA Director of Public Affairs, at (703)528-1902 or ddozier@aaanet.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Setha Low
President