



September 9, 2016

Honorable Ken Detzner
Secretary of State
State of Florida

Re: Sunken artifacts-Cape Canaveral

Dear Secretary Detzner:

I am writing you in the hopes that we can resolve the issues related to the find made by Global Marine Exploration, Inc., (GME) pursuant to the permit issued to it by your office for the area known as 2015-03. It is my understanding that the State of Florida intends to agree to the claims of the Country of France under the Sunken Military Craft Act and to work with them to recover the artifacts and to enter into an agreement with France for the State of Florida to retain possession. My question to you as a former business person, is where does that leave GME?

As you know, pursuant to and in reliance upon the permits issued by the State, GME has expended millions of dollars in its exploration efforts, and it now appears that your office intends to ignore any claims of GME for compensation for this find. From our standpoint that is obviously unacceptable, and we are now placed in a position of having to pursue legal action to protect our investors. We feel like we have done a great service for the State of Florida and would prefer to continue our business relationship in the future. As we have clearly demonstrated, we are uniquely qualified to assist in the discovery and recovery of other significant artifacts in the rest of the coastal waters of the State, but in the event we are forced into court, that will be an impossible scenario.

As for the claims of the Country of France under the Sunken Military Craft Act, we are now in a position to prove without any doubt, in court, if necessary, from the expert opinions of highly regarded historians and archaeologists, that the artifacts in question are not part of the Ribault Fleet that sank in 1565. If you are receiving contrary information from someone in your Department, I would strongly urge you to question them as to the proof they are relying upon, and their underlying agenda, because you are receiving some very bad advice. (Just as an aside, while I like your Division Director of Historical Resources, Tim Parson, you need to understand where he stands philosophically in this matter. He is a member of the Register of Professional Archaeologists, which forbids its members from entering into any agreements with commercial salvors for the excavation and/or recovery of archaeological artifacts. RPA Code of Conduct 1.2 "1.2 An archaeologist shall not: knowingly be involved in the recovery or excavation of artifacts for commercial exploitation, or knowingly be employed by or knowingly contract with an individual or entity who recovers or excavates archaeological artifacts for commercial exploitation." This is a clear conflict of interest for anyone purporting to oversee and administer the 1A-31 permitting process, which is written pursuant to State law solely for commercial exploration and recovery of archaeological artifacts on behalf of the State of Florida.

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How can he, or anyone else in that department that is a member of the RPA possibly give you unbiased advice given his/her membership in the RPA, and the code of conduct they are required to follow?)

I assure you, that while we may not be able to prove the identity of this vessel, there is no question we can prove what it is not, the Ribault Fleet, and I will be happy to share our proof with you. The Country of France has no verifiable and provable claim to these artifacts, and it would seem to me, that your Office owes a duty to the citizens of the State of Florida to protect their rights to them, and to contest France's claims.

Obviously, my responsibility and goal is to protect the interests of GME, and to avoid extremely costly and lengthy litigation. My hope and desire is that we can reach some sort of mutually acceptable arrangement to resolve this matter short of litigation. If you feel there is some way we can resolve this and continue our working relationship, I would love to hear from you within the next five days, otherwise, I will have to assume there is no room for compromise, and will have to proceed accordingly.

Very Truly Yours,

Robert H. Pritchett, III, President
GLOBAL MARINE EXPLORATION, INC.