July 8, 2016
Office of Governor Bruce Rauner
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Via email: governor@state.il.us

Dear Governor Rauner,

I am writing today on behalf of the American Anthropological Association and its nearly 10,000 members to ask you to reconsider the decision to close the Illinois State Museum System.

The Illinois State Museum System’s closure would be a dramatic loss to science and cultural heritage education at a time when we can ill-afford to reduce our investments in narrowing the innovation deficit.

The museum system contains significant paleontology and anthropology collections, and enjoys nearly half a million visitors each year. The projected short-term savings from closing the system do not take into account the cost for the proper transition and deaccessioning of these important collections, or the financial impact from museum visitor and tourism spending associated with the museums.

Surely the people of Illinois should not be cut off from so valuable an institution formed for the common good, the preservation of their heritage, and the education of their children for future success in a modern society.

Thank you for your consideration,

Edward Liebow, PhD, Executive Director
American Anthropological Association
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+517.483.1168 – direct line

You can help by registering your support for the Illinois State Museum:
• Send an e-mail or call the governor (217) 782-0244
• Send a letter
• Testify at a public hearing on July 13
• Submit a public commit before July 22

If you’re willing to go one step further, a quick e-mail or phone call to the offices of the following officials would have a huge impact:
• The Honorable John J. Cullerton, President, Illinois Senate:
  email: jcullerton@senatedem.illinois.gov phone: (773) 883-0770
• The Honorable Jim Durkin, Republican Leader, Illinois House of Representatives:
  email: repdurkin@hotmail.com phone: (217) 782-0494
• The Honorable Christine Radogno, Republican Leader, Illinois Senate:
  email: christine@senatorradogno.com phone: (312) 814-2050
• The Honorable Michael J. Madigan, Speaker, Illinois House of Representatives:
  phone calls only: (773) 581-8000

Thank you for your help in preserving this invaluable scientific resource.