Chairwoman Nancy Todd and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my support for the proposed funding for the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) Database and Systems Modernization. PaleoWest conducts business across the state of Colorado, supported by our office in Lafayette, CO staffed by Colorado residents, and your constituents. Our business operations depend on the ability to effectively gather data from and deliver data to the database systems managed by History Colorado. The approach and the budget described for modernization of the systems in the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Information Technology Request appear to be reasonable and necessary. It is my opinion that funding this request is a decision that makes fiscal sense in generation of efficiencies and savings for OAHP. The project will benefit not only History Colorado, but the vast array of federal, state, tribal, and private partners that depend on these systems.

PaleoWest is a technologically-oriented firm. We recognized from our inception in 2006 the benefits of adopting digital systems to create efficiencies in our work and improve the quality of the products we deliver. We’ve continually invested in these systems internally and those investments have always paid off. We interface regularly with site file systems in states from coast-to-coast, systems that depend far too often on outdated, analog procedures. Paper-based delivery of data and manual data entry are clear examples of processes that are wasteful, and unnecessary in a system where data is collected digitally and stored/managed digitally. The proposed updates to the OAHP database systems eliminate the need for these wasteful procedures and streamline the process for everyone that depends on these systems.

Modernizing the OAHP database systems will not only pay for itself, but it will open opportunities for new directions and partnerships. By simplifying data retrieval and opening pathways for easier delivery of digital data, this funding will create avenues for the systems to integrate seamlessly with the digital data collection systems created by PaleoWest and others who long ago recognized the value of digital approaches. The value of digital approaches and investment in modernization of digital systems is widely recognized in nearly every industry. Archaeology and cultural resource systems should not be an exception to this, but should be breaking ground. We invest our firms resources in the History Colorado systems and have faith in the teams to effectively carry out the proposed work for modernization. I respectfully ask that you fund this initiative for these reasons.

Best,

Shawn Fehrenbach
Chief Executive Officer