

Dear State Representative:

I am outraged at the removal of Historic Monuments, particularly those honoring our Confederate Heroes. I support legislation that would end such political grave-robbing, and I wish to suggest a couple of ideas to improve such legislation.

Historic Monuments are public property, most were originally approved by a deliberative body, and most (if not all) were funded by private donations from such entities as the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) and Sons of Confederate Veterans. (SCV).

Some Southern States have introduced legislation requiring a Referendum prior to the removal of Historic Monuments, such as Rep. Thomas Carmody's Bill in Louisiana (HB-71.) Here are a couple of suggested provisions that might improve such legislation, and introduce some much-needed fairness and equity into the situation.

First, if a municipality or county (or Parish) holds such a Referendum, and a majority votes to remove a Historic Monument, then that government entity should become legally obligated to financially compensate the original donors who contributed to those Historic Monuments, to the extent they can be ascertained. The reimbursement should be in "constant" (inflation-adjusted) dollars.

Government entities would be legally obligated to make Restitution to the UDC or SCV, or any other heritage groups still in existence, when and where they were found to be an original source of funding for these Historic Monuments.

A second suggested Provision would mandate that government entities which choose to remove Historic Monuments become legally obligated to assume all financial costs of removing, relocating and restoring them to the nearest venue desiring them, within the same state.

Here's a third suggested Provision: Government entities such as New Orleans, which have removed Historic Monuments without a Referendum, should be obligated to hold such a Referendum within six months of the passage of legislation designed to protect Historic Monuments.

Any failure to do so should require these government entities to properly restore these Historic Monuments to their original conditions — and to their original locations — and do so at their own expense.

I propose withholding some state discretionary funds, if necessary, to ensure that this requirement is satisfied.

Respectfully,

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