



JOB LOSS

The \$33 million in economic impact the museums generate annually will disappear, taking jobs with it. The museums will lay off 68 workers. Employees of small businesses that rely on museum and museum visitor spending will find their jobs at risk as the customer base shrinks.

DECREASED TOURISM

Museums are the top reason tourists visit Illinois, and our state museums attract over 386,000 visitors each year. When out-of-state tourists attend cultural events here, they spend 2.5 times more per person than Illinois residents.



MEAGER SAVINGS

Shuttering the museums will do little to reduce the state's deficit. The alleged annual savings, \$4.8 million, would equal just 1/10 of 1% of the state's projected deficit – Not worth it.



10 REASONS

Why Closing the Illinois State Museums is Senseless

ACTUALLY, LESS-THAN-MEAGER SAVINGS

The \$4.8 million savings projection does *not* include the enormous costs of the closure process, such as returning thousands of objects on loan and adequately protecting the millions of other objects in the collection. The museum will also run the risk of lawsuits for failing to fulfill contracts.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP STIFLED

The museums' galleries and shops serve as incubators for creative enterprise by enabling Illinois artists and artisans to show and sell their work.



FEDERAL FUNDS TAKEN AWAY

The Illinois State Museum is an internationally recognized center of research, supported by \$2 million in grants from agencies such as the National Science Foundation. If the museums close, research projects will end, and Illinois will lose the federal funds that support them.

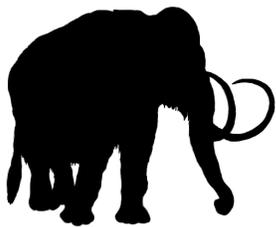


Compiled by



HISTORY SILENCED

What was Illinois like millions of years ago when it was a tropical sea or when mastodons roamed? The museums' collection of 13.5 million objects helps us understand the nature and universal forces of environmental change. It provides this learning to the public for free, but the closures will bar our access indefinitely.



EDUCATION DENIED

Over 2,300 teachers and 40,000 students visit the state museums each year. The closures will deny them a unique opportunity to learn about art, nature, cultural diversity, and our shared heritage.



BROKEN PROMISES TO NATIVE AMERICANS

Shuttering the museums could put the State in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and written agreements that guarantee museum access to collections for culturally related tribes.



LOSS OF REPUTATION + TRUST

The museums will likely lose their national accreditation, which could take years to regain. Doubts will grow among donors as to the State's ability to steward the items they have contributed. We will lose their trust, making it much more difficult to convince others to lend or donate items or provide financial support in the future.