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Governor Haley:

Now that the Paris Conference has revealed that we cannot avoid at least some of the worst of the effects of climate change (especially sea level rise), it seems wise to begin thinking about how to mitigate some of those effects.

As a retired library director, I am concerned that many cultural and intellectual treasures might be irrevocably damaged by water. This would include just about any object that is paper-based in some way (and not merely books). Hence libraries, museums, and other document or artifact depositories are at serious risk of being lost forever. World Heritage sites, of which many are at risk, are mostly locations or structures. It is not sufficient, for instance, that an artistic or literary object itself be of universal cultural or intellectual significance. This means that such objects housed in "ordinary" structures (e.g., a modern library building) will likely never qualify for World Heritage status--and thus will not be on our radar as sea level impinges on those locations. And water, as you know, is fatally destructive to paper products.

We are at real risk of losing our cultural, artistic, and intellectual heritage for future generations, who might never know much about us except what archeological excavations will reveal.

Yours faithfully,

T. G. McFadden