



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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July 28, 2020

Patrick S. Druckenmiller, Ph.D.
Director, University of Alaska Museum of the North
Professor of Geology, Department of Geosciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks
1962 Yukon Dr., Fairbanks, Alaska, USA 99775

Re: Response to Request for Disposition of Bus 142

Dear Dr. Druckenmiller,

The Department of Natural Resources (department) has received your request dated July 17, 2020, to be the depository for Bus 142 (bus). The department appreciates your thorough explanation of the reasons the University of Alaska Museum of the North (Museum) would be an appropriate entity for the curation of the bus. The department has received other inquires of interest and developed criteria to consider when analyzing all the potential options for final disposition of the bus.

The four criteria the department considered during our analysis of the options for the final disposition of the bus included public safety, financial impact to the state, legal defensibility, and a respectful disposition. The Museum's proposal does meet all the criteria considered. While DNR has also received public comments or recommendations to transfer or loan the bus to other public or privately-owned parks or museums, the museum is one of three official state repositories recognized as able to accept and curate state-owned items of historic importance, and the only one in Interior Alaska. The Museum is legally able to accept non-profit donations which may be utilized for restoration, curation, and display of the bus. The Museum has the expertise to evaluate suitability and management practices of other entities, public or private, that may want to display the bus. The Museum, as curator, could properly consider, evaluate and determine if options are available to loan out the collection (bus and other items related to the history of the bus) in the future, including any concerns or constraints on profiteering. Entering into an agreement with the Museum would not transfer ownership of the bus as the Museum is simply the curator of the bus.

After consideration of the above criteria and the facts and information presented, the Department of Natural Resources agrees to negotiate and implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Curatorial Services with the University of Alaska Museum of the North. The department looks forward to our partnership and the restoration and display of Bus 142. If you have any questions please contact Christy Colles at 269-8532 or christianna.colles@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Corri A. Feige".

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner

Cc: Brent Goodrum, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Martin Parson, Director, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW)
Christy Colles, Chief of Operations, DMLW