



THE FEDERATION

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December 1, 2024

Cynthia Chavez Lamar CHRIS RAWLEY
Director
National Museum of the American Indian
National Mall
Fourth Street & Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20560

Dear Ms. Chavez Lamar,

I'm writing in regard to a number of cultural objects that I found in Issaquah, Washington in 2011 on private property where I had prior permission to look for and keep anything I found. This land is not a burial ground, but rather the site of a creek which no longer flows.

My assumption is that they originate with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe.

I have not sold, traded or given away any cultural objects, nor would I ever sell, trade, or give away cultural objects. These are in fact the only cultural objects I possess, and I don't anticipate acquiring additional cultural objects.

They currently reside in a safe deposit box in Austin, Texas.

Given their importance, I have struggled with the question of what to do with these objects post analysis. I believe that delivering them safely to a national institution with outstanding relationships with tribal leaders in both Canada and the U.S. is the best solution.

I would like to arrange for The National Museum of the American Indian to take delivery, and subsequently stewardship of these objects on or before February 1, 2025. I would be happy to pay for transfer by your preferred carrier.

I understand that in Japan, National Treasure is a term used when referring to objects that are especially impactful in Japanese culture. Because the objects described here represent a tangible and unifying link between all major religions, I am suggesting that they might be considered National Treasures in honor of the Snoqualmie Tribe.

I look forward to working with NMAI to make this happen.

Respect.

CHRIS RAWLEY
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