



THE FEDERATION

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May 15, 2025

Cynthia Chavez Lamar
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 2010 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.

I believe that these objects originate with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, which has an established presence in Issaquah for thousands of years.

I've never sold, traded or given away any cultural objects, nor would I ever sell, trade, or give away cultural objects. These are the only cultural objects I possess, and I don't anticipate acquiring additional cultural objects in the future.

The objects are currently 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 to a national institution with outstanding relationships with indigenous tribal leaders in both the United States and Canada is the best solution.

With your permission, I would like to arrange for The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) to take delivery, and subsequent stewardship of these objects on or before August 15, 2025.

I will pay the cost for transfer by your preferred carrier.

I understand that in Japan, National Treasure is a term that is used when referring to objects that are especially impactful in Japanese culture. Because the objects described herein 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
The Federation