



# NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE

1201 NEW YORK AVE., NW SUITE 420 WASHINGTON, DC 20005 TEL.: 202 628 1500

WWW.NSCALLIANCE.ORG

29 July 2019

Dear University of Alaska Board of Regents,

The proposed budget cuts to the Museum of the North at the University of Alaska will decimate research and education about Alaska's biological and cultural heritage. This research center benefits Alaska, the Arctic, and the world. It is an irreplaceable scientific research and education facility. The loss of funding for this scientific facility will limit Alaska now and in the future. We respectfully request that you reconsider the elimination of funding for the Museum of the North.

We appreciate the dire situation in which the University of Alaska system has been placed. You are stewards, however, for the state's natural and cultural heritage, including research and education about these treasures.

Museums are hubs for groundbreaking research and education. Currently, museums across the globe are working to mobilize the vast treasure troves of data they house—information about species distribution, unique genetic resources, information about disease vectors and hosts, and much more. These data are driving innovation in data integration and management, and new imaging technologies. New initiatives will allow researchers and educators in Alaska to connect with scholars, students, and natural resource, agriculture, and public health decision-makers across the nation. As a result of these new connections, Alaska will be better positioned to make sound decisions that benefit its citizens, remain a leader in Arctic science, and be positioned to prepare your students for new data-intensive careers.

It is essential to have a vibrant and healthy Museum of the North for the future of Alaska's magnificent cultural, geological, and biological riches. On behalf of the Board of the Natural Science Collections Alliance, we urge you to reject these cuts for the sake of Alaska and its people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. M. Bates'.

John M. Bates, PhD  
President, Natural Science Collections Alliance  
Head, Life Sciences Section, Integrative Research Center, The Field Museum