



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
SOUTHEAST REGION

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April 9, 2019

Representative Geran Tarr
Representative John Lincoln
Co-Chairs, House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

To the Co-chairs and Members of the House Resources Committee:

House Bill 122, sponsored by Representative Hannan and co-sponsored by Representatives Edgmon, Kriess-Tomkins, Ortiz, Story, Tuck, Spohnholz, and Zulkosky, would expand the boundaries of the Funtler Bay State Marine Park in Southeast Alaska to encompass the Funtler Bay Unangax Cemetery parcel.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation wishes to go on record as supporting this legislation. We would be pleased to accept management responsibility for this site, which is so important to the history of our state, and to the culture and memory of the Aleut people.

The Southeast Regional Alaska State Parks staff has been working with many organizations and individuals for a way to provide better management and protection of this significant historic cultural resource.

It has been a privilege to coordinate and work with the diverse group of knowledgeable and enthusiastic people, agencies and organizations working hard to further protect this site, and to help inform Alaskans about the importance of the cemetery and the hardships imposed on the Aleut people of St. Paul and St. George islands in Funtler Bay during World War II.

Alaska State Parks is honored at the opportunity to be entrusted to manage this parcel as part of the Funtler Bay State Marine Park, and would be glad to answer any questions from you or your committee on this legislation.

Yours very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricky Gease".

Ricky Gease
Director, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation