



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Governor Mike Dunleavy

DATE: 6/13/2022

FROM: Corri Feige, Commissioner DNR

SUBJECT: Retirement

Dear Governor Dunleavy –

As you know well, these are demanding jobs. My family has supported me over the past three and a half years as I have served the people of Alaska, delivering your vision and policy goals for a stronger, more vibrant Alaska, free of Federal interference, and able to develop its resources under the strictest environmental standards in the world while providing good family wage jobs. I am proud of the work we have been able to accomplish.

Due to recent developments, the time has come for me to return the support my family has so generously shown. I will retire from my position as Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources at close of business on June 30, 2022.

It has been my distinct honor to serve Alaskans as a Cabinet member in your Administration. Your leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic response enabled DNR to help Alaska's resource industries maintain stable operations and endure one of the greatest market shocks in history. The COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted how vulnerable Alaska's supply chains and food supplies can be if our connection to the Lower 48 is interrupted. DNR is pleased to be a part of your Food Security Task Force and is working to support the dramatic expansion of in-state food production through the Nenana-Totchaket Agricultural Land Sale Project and expanded micro-grant funding to Alaskan farmers.

The Department has successfully launched the "Unlocking Alaska" initiative, fighting Federal overreach, and is asserting State ownership of lands and waters that Alaska received title to at Statehood, more than six decades ago. Under the Alaska Constitution, these lands and waters belong to all Alaskans and should be developed and used to derive

maximum benefit for all. It is my sincere hope that this initiative will continue and remain a priority focus of the department.

DNR is fully engaged in advancing the rare earth and critical minerals initiative, as well. We have made significant progress in placing Alaska and our critical mineral wealth at the forefront of meeting our nation's needs. This is important not only for Alaska, but also for our national security as countries like Russia and China attempt to control the production of these strategic resources with little to no environmental oversight or labor standards.

DNR has also begun the work necessary to facilitate a carbon capture, use and sequestration industry in Alaska. This work will benefit the state and its resource industries for many years to come.

Finally, the incredible work we have done to rebuild Alaska's wildland fire prevention, preparedness and response efforts must continue; and we must continue to promote a strong timber industry in Alaska, even as the Federal government is trying its hardest to make this industry a part of Alaska's past and not its future.

I know the people of Alaska will continue to be well-served by your tireless efforts to build a stronger, more diverse economy, secure more in-state food and energy supplies, and create a better standard of living for all.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve with you. DNR is composed of an amazing team of professionals who will continue to work to fulfill your vision of putting more lands in Alaskans' hands, pushing back on Federal interference, and advancing the resource projects that will be the growth industries of Alaska's future.

I wish you and my Cabinet colleagues the very best.

Very Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Conrad A. Fidge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Conrad" being more legible than the last name "Fidge".