



**National Park Service
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
612 E. Reserve Street
Vancouver, WA 98661**



1.A.2 (PWR-FOVA)

November 7, 2012

Fort Vancouver National Trust
ATTN: Elson Strahan
750 Anderson Street
Vancouver, Washington 98661

Dear Elson:

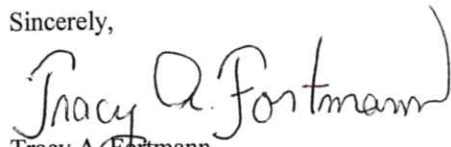
Thank you for meeting with me, Chief Ranger Shine, and Alexandra James from our Solicitor's Office, on November 6, 2012. Please extend our thanks to your Board members Ed Lynch, Bing Sheldon, Steve Horenstein, Stacy Graham, Brad Carlson, and Trust staff member Mike True. It was an unexpected honor to have Congresswoman Jamie Herrera-Beutler and her District Director Ryan Hart in attendance.

I appreciated your willingness to come to the table with representatives from your Executive Board to continue negotiations surrounding the draft Cooperative Agreement (CA). I hope you came away from this meeting with a clear understanding of the legal parameters within which I, as Park Superintendent, am required to operate. I also hope you left the meeting with the understanding that my staff and I will continue to work with you in good faith and with open lines of communication. We understand that we are going to continue to negotiate the terms of the CA within the aforementioned parameters to the satisfaction of both parties.

The purpose of this November 6th meeting was to share with you the legal authorities under which the National Park Service operates. These authorities do not allow a Committee comprised of both public and private actors to take over the decision-making and permitting responsibilities that the Secretary of the Interior has delegated to the Superintendent. I understand that this non-delegable permitting authority gives you and your Executive Board pause and that your Executive Board will be meeting soon to discuss whether the Trust should pursue future involvement in the operation of the Pearson Air Museum under the CA with the Park. As I expressed yesterday, I do not think this should hinder our continued negotiations. I understand that your Board views its pending decision on whether to enter into this Cooperative Agreement as a "business decision."

As I shared in the meeting, Pearson Air Museum, is a vital component of the national park, and will remain open. Should the Trust determine that it does not want to continue negotiations on the new CA, we will respect your decision and in that scenario it is my hope that the Park and the Trust would work cooperatively together to transition operation of Pearson Air Museum in a seamless fashion so that the public is not negatively impacted. My staff and I look forward to your Executive Board's decision and urge you, while the Board's decision is pending, to keep channels of communication surrounding upcoming Special Events open and to share with the Park, at your earliest convenience, any Special Use Applications that you receive.

Sincerely,


Tracy A. Fortmann
Superintendent

Cc: Fort Vancouver National Trust Executive Board
Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler