February 26, 2014

Григорий Саввинов
Институт прикладной экологии Севера
Северо-Восточный федеральный университет

Dear Dr. Savvinov,

I am pleased to provide you with some commentary on our ongoing collaboration in the study of the late Pleistocene fauna of northern Yakutia, especially focusing on the paleobiology and extinction of woolly mammoths.  This collaboration has been instrumental in organizing a productive program of field research in each of the past two summers.  I would not have been able to work nearly as effectively without the support of your Museum of Mammoth and the Institute of Applied Ecology of the North. You have made many arrangements concerning logistics and permissions, without which this field work would have been impossible.  You have also facilitated my visits in Yakutsk, which have been productive as well.

We are just beginning some new phases of our collaboration, with one scientific paper now in press and others in preparation.  We have worked together well in preparing several abstracts for the upcoming International Mammoth Conference in Greece, and I look forward to the possibility of hosting your visit to my laboratory at the University of Michigan later this year, or whenever you are able to arrange it. We have also discussed arrangements for some of your students and/or staff to come to Michigan to learn some of our research methods.  I am very thankful for our interaction, and I am certain that our collaboration will be productive for years to come.  Please assure the administration of the North-East Federal University that the University of Michigan is pleased to be your partner in this research.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Fisher
Claude W. Hibbard Collegiate Professor of Paleontology
Director and Curator, Museum of Paleontology
Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology