

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Jessica Bowron
Acting Director
National Park Service (NPS)
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum and Acting Director Bowron:

We write to express our deep concern with the rewriting of history at Stonewall National Monument and other National Park Service (NPS) units.

As you know, Stonewall National Monument was designated on June 24, 2016, as the first unit of the National Park System dedicated to LGBTQIA+ equality. On June 28, 1969, members of the LGBTQIA+ community made history by standing up and fighting back – demanding their rights at the Stonewall Inn. The Monument honors the legacy of the Stonewall Rebellion and the critical role it played in the LGBTQIA+ civil rights movement. This pivotal moment would not have happened without the courage of trans activists, particularly transgender women of color such as Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and Miss Major Griffin Gracey, who were on the front lines and fought for gay and transgender rights. The Monument is a recognition of their bravery and sacrifice, as well as a recommitment to the ideals of equality and justice for the LGBTQIA+ community, which remain as relevant today as they were that night in 1969. While we celebrate how far we have come as a country, we must remain vigilant against the concerning rise in anti-LGBTQIA+ sentiment nationwide.

Among the many attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community, we are deeply alarmed by the NPS' recent changes to Stonewall National Monument. In February, the NPS removed references to transgender people from its Stonewall National Monument web page.¹ The NPS subsequently removed most mentions of bisexuality from the web page just before Pride Month, though this change appears to have now been reversed.² The transgender pride flag was also not part of this year's Pride display at the monument after the NPS refused to cover the cost of trans pride flags, despite previously having done so since 2023.³ This erasure of transgender and queer Americans from the history of Stonewall—or from any part of our national narrative—is a blatant attack on the integrity of public history. The history of Stonewall cannot be told without the stories of transgender Americans.

¹ Juliana Kim, Park Service erases 'transgender' on Stonewall website, uses the term 'LGB' movement, NPR, Feb. 14, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/14/g-s1-48923/stonewall-monument-transgender-park-service>.

² James Factora, After Axing the Word “Transgender,” Stonewall Monument Website Quietly Cuts “Bisexual” Too, Them, Jul. 11, 2025, <https://www.them.us/story/stonewall-bisexuals>

³ Giulia Heyward, ‘Prouder, louder’: NYC Pride pushes back as LGBTQ+ rights are rolled back, Gothamist, Jun. 20, 2025, <https://gothamist.com/news/prouder-louder-nyc-pride-pushes-back-as-lgbtq-rights-are-rolled-back>

The rewriting of Stonewall is only one example of troubling changes across the National Park System that threaten its mission, including the diminishing of stories about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, massacres of Native Americans, and the enslavement of African Americans.⁴ Units of the National Park System play a vital role in preserving and interpreting our nation's history, including its most difficult chapters. Efforts to reshape historical interpretation to conform to political or ideological preferences risk undermining public trust and the credibility of the Park Service.

We are especially troubled with the ongoing implementation of NPS' June 9th memo that requires all NPS units to post signage to encourage the public to offer feedback on any information that they feel portrays American history and landscapes in a negative light. The memo further directs NPS to conduct a review of such content, including all public-facing images and descriptions.⁵ The lack of transparency on how NPS plans to rewrite "negative" content and incorporate visitor feedback is deeply concerning. We must reject any attempts to gloss over or otherwise rewrite difficult chapters of our history, which would not only threaten the credibility of NPS's exhibits, but would also undermine the trust and respect of communities whose stories are a part of our American story.

We urge you to immediately restore references to transgender and queer Americans on all public-facing materials for Stonewall National Monument and ensure that all educational and interpretive materials reflect the full, accurate, and inclusive history of the Stonewall Rebellion. Furthermore, we request a briefing to discuss ongoing efforts to rewrite history at Stonewall National Monument and other NPS units, including how NPS plans to use visitor feedback to alter or remove content across the National Park System.

The American people deserve to know how decisions are being made about the future of their national parks.

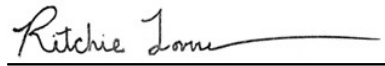
Sincerely,



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



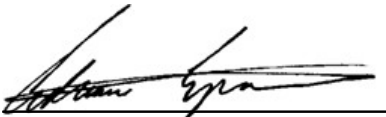
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



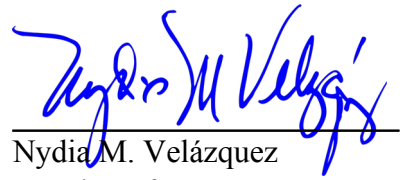
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

⁴ Jake Spring, National parks remove signs about climate, slavery and Japanese detention, The Washington Post, Sept. 20, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2025/09/20/national-parks-climate-change-slavery-purge/>

⁵ Chloe Veltman, National Park signage encourages the public to erase negative stories at its sites, NPR, Jun 10, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/06/10/nx-s1-5429773/national-park-service-signs>.



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



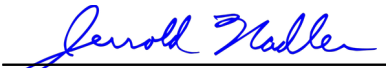
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



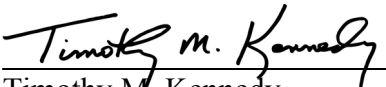
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



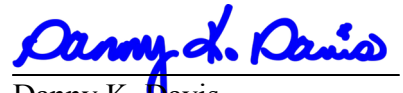
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



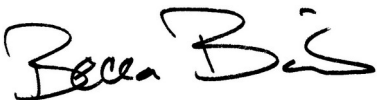
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



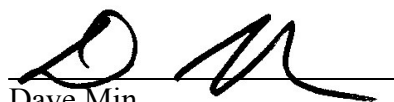
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



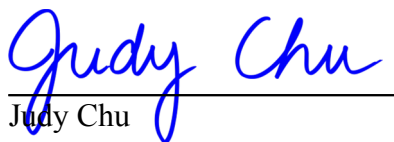
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



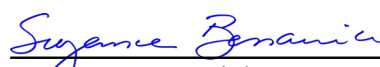
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



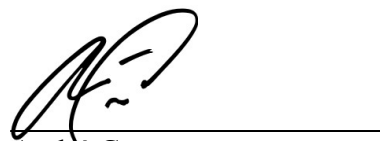
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



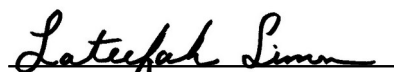
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



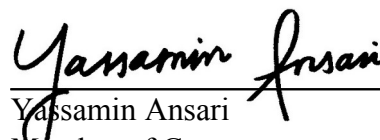
Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



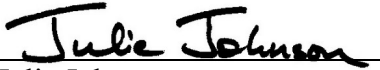
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



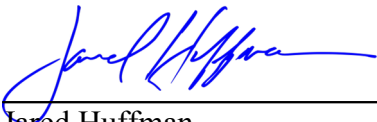
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



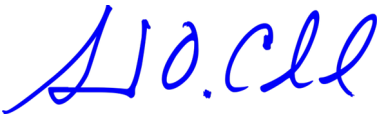
Jan Schakowsky
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Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Coast
Guard and Maritime
Transportation



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



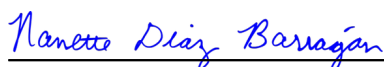
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



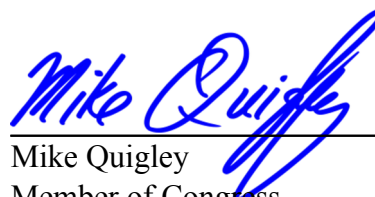
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



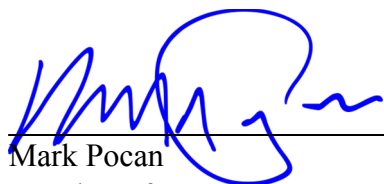
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



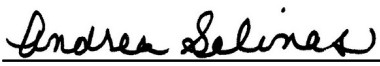
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



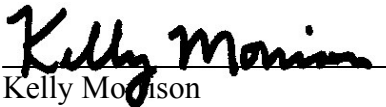
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



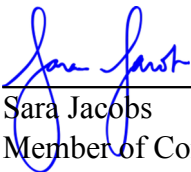
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



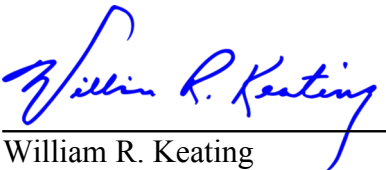
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



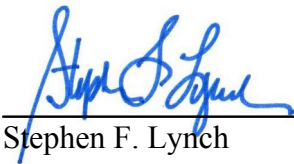
Al Green
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress