

September 22, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write you today to ask that you use your Antiquities Act authority to designate the area around Stonewall as a national monument in our nation's National Park System.

America's national parks include some of the most beautiful places on earth and tell some of the most important, and sometimes the most difficult, stories of our shared culture and history. The Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, Manzanar, Little Rock Central High School, and Independence Hall are just a few examples of national park sites that capture our hearts and minds, teach us important and sometimes difficult lessons, and allow each of us to reflect on our own role in America's history. These special places provide the opportunity to celebrate and learn about our shared past, preserve our historic spaces, and bring renewed commitment to the communities that helped to shape our country.

By establishing 16 national monuments and signing legislation creating many more, you have demonstrated that it is a priority for you to protect and preserve America's special places. We hope you will act again to protect the places important to telling the LGBT story. For instance, in New York City, the story of Stonewall would honor the American LGBT experience. The Stonewall Inn and Christopher Park in New York's West Village served as the site of the 1969 uprising that signified a major turning point in LGBT history and have come to symbolize the birthplace of the modern LGBT rights movement worldwide. This story represents a history that affects all Americans – including LGBT people – and exemplifies the uniquely American values enshrined in our Bill of Rights.

Park units share stories of the African American experience and Hispanic and Asian American history and culture. Sites document the sometimes tragic journey of Native Americans and the struggle of women for the right to vote. Even though our national parks tell America's story, there are no national park units for LGBT Americans. The LGBT story is being left out.

In your second inaugural address, you talked about three special places: Selma, Seneca Falls, and Stonewall. Two of these places are national parks. We hope you will support our efforts to include the third by making Stonewall a national monument in America's National Park System.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union
Athlete Ally
Campus Pride
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Equality Federation
Family Equality Council
Freedom to Marry
Gay Men's Health Crisis
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality

GLSEN

Human Rights Campaign

Lambda Legal

Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club of Queens

Log Cabin Republicans

Marriage Equality USA

National Center for Lesbian Rights

National Center for Transgender Equality

National Council of Jewish Women

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

National LGBTQ Task Force

National Organization for Women

People For the American Way

PFLAG National

Pride at Work

The Trevor Project

True Colors Fund