

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2025

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

Dear Acting Director Bowron:

We write to request an update on the impact of your June 9 memo on educational and historical markers, monuments, and memorials that are part of the National Park System. We are greatly concerned that your memo aims to undermine cultural resources at those sites while neglecting meaningful upgrades and improvements.

Your June 9, 2025 memo to all NPS units required NPS units to solicit public reports about existing signage that is subjectively negative about either past or living Americans, or that fail to emphasize the “beauty, grandeur, and abundance” of landscapes and other natural features.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, that memo set a July 18, 2025 deadline for units to review *all* public signage and language for any such content.

We are deeply concerned that your memo will create changes that damage valuable historical resources, disrupt NPS operations, and unnecessarily hurt our national parks and the communities that use and enjoy them.

The history of our great nation is told through the National Park System. Historical markers, monuments, and memorials play an important role in educating Americans about that history. The National Park System currently includes:

- 54 National Historical Parks, which tell stories of American history at sites as diverse and irreplaceable as Independence Hall, Appomattox Court House, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s childhood home, and the inland Northwest home of the nimíipuu (Nez Perce) people.
- 75 National Historic Sites and 1 International Historic Site, which protect additional, unique sites from Washington and Montana, to Maine, to Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.
- 25 National Battlefields, Battlefield Parks, Battlefield Sites, and Military Parks, including sites from important battles in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and other conflict that shaped American history.
- 31 National Memorials that mark important figures, places, and events in our nation’s history, including iconic memorials on the National Mall, Mount Rushmore, Arlington House, and solemn memorials to Flight 93 and the attack on Pearl Harbor.

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<sup>1</sup> [National Park signage encourages the public to help erase negative stories at its sites | NPR](#)

Those dedicated historical sites join hundreds more NPS units across all 50 states, which collectively welcome more than 330 million visitors every year to witness their natural beauty and learn from longstanding educational resources, including signs and others interpretative materials. *None* of those sites can, or should, be separated from the history that makes them part of our nation's fabric.

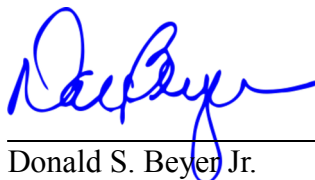
Instead, your memo will further divert resources away from deferred maintenance, an infamous issue within the Park Service. The NPS maintenance backlog affects all aspects of parks, including not only historical markers, monuments, and memorials, but also basic signage essential for visitor safety. Addressing that backlog should be NPS' utmost priority in updating or changing cultural resources, rather than neglecting safety and the visitor experience in pursuit of censorship and erasure.

The outcomes of your review are potentially significant for the people and communities that use and enjoy our National Park System. Please therefore provide answers to the following questions:

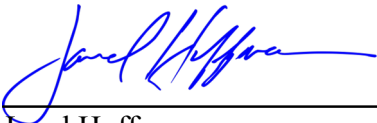
1. What properties, if any, in the National Park System were flagged for violations as part of the review initiated by your June 9 memo?
  - a. Please provide a full list of NPS units that were found to contain signs or other property flagged for violations.
  - b. Please provide a full list of signs and other property flagged for violations, disaggregated by NPS unit.
2. What properties, if any, in the National Park System have been altered or removed as a result of that review?
  - a. Please provide a full list of NPS units that were found to contain signs or other property that were altered or removed.
  - b. Please provide a full list of signs and other property that were altered or removed, disaggregated by NPS unit.

Given the importance of the National Park System to our nation's history, economy, and natural landscapes, we request a response to these questions by September 30, 2025. We look forward to receiving those responses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Beyer", is written over a horizontal line.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



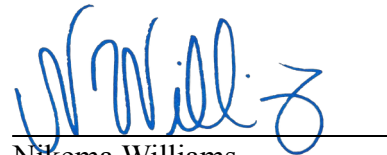
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



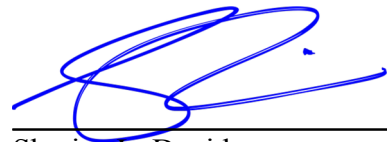
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



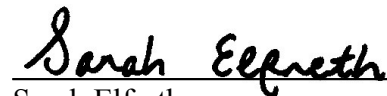
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



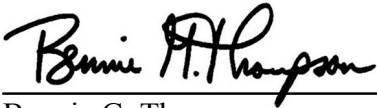
Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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MARK TAKANO  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



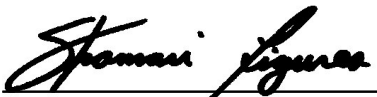
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Janelle S. Bynum  
Member of Congress



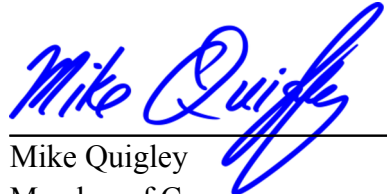
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Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



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Shomari Figures  
Member of Congress



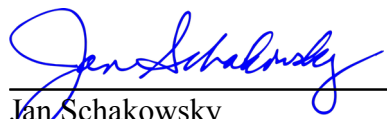
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



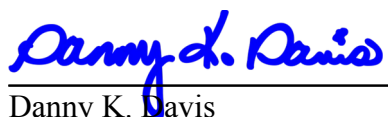
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

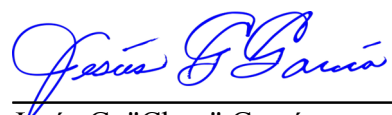


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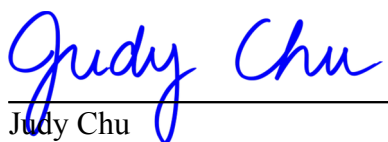
Sydney Kamlager Dove  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



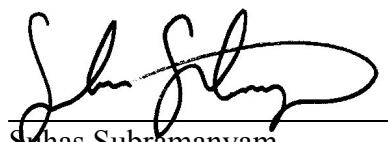
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



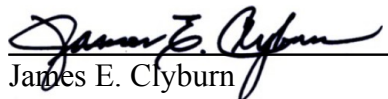
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



James E. Clyburn  
Member of Congress



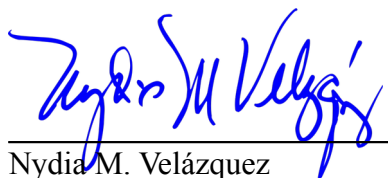
Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



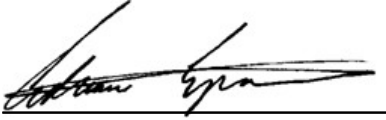
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



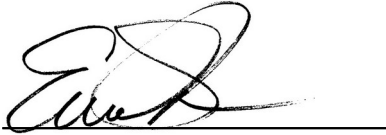
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



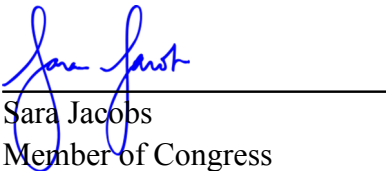
Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



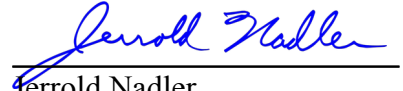
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



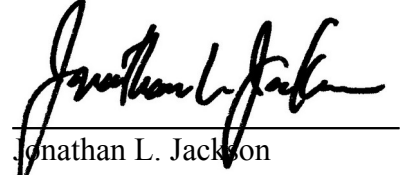
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



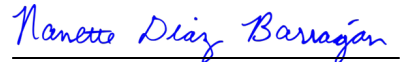
James R. Walkinshaw  
Member of Congress




Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



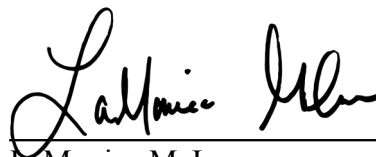
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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



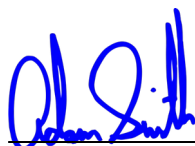
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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



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LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



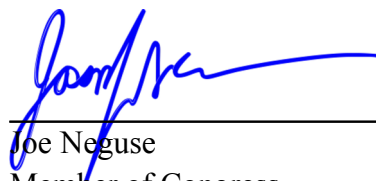
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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



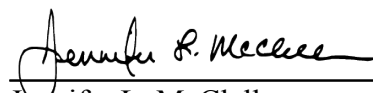
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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



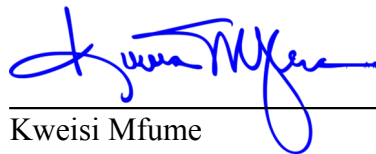
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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



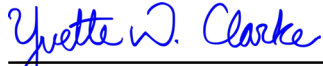
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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



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Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress



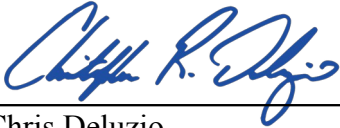
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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



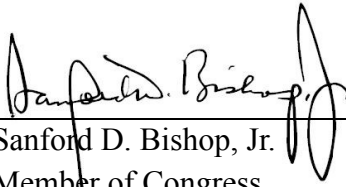
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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



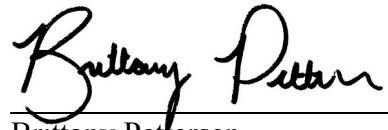
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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



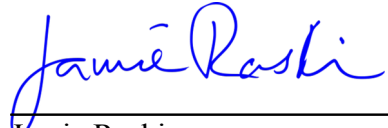
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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress




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Dave Min  
Member of Congress




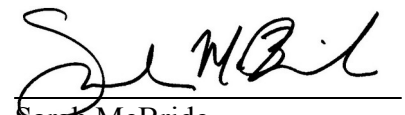
  
Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress

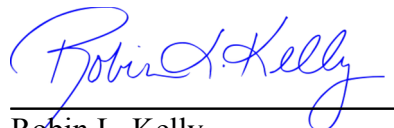
  
Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress


  
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress


  
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

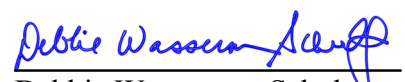
  
Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress


  
Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress

  
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

  
Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress

  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

  
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress