



3/21/2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 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 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 story of LGBTQ Americans, including the Stonewall Inn in New York City. 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 LGBTQ history and have come to symbolize the birthplace of the modern LGBTQ rights movement worldwide. This story represents a history that affects all Americans – gay and straight – and exemplifies the uniquely American values enshrined in our Bill of Rights.

Even though our national parks tell America's story, there are no national park units for LGBTQ Americans. The LGBTQ 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,

Jeana Frazzini & Nancy Haque
Co-Executive Directors
Basic Rights Oregon

Every Community. Every County. Every Corner.

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