

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2026

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

Jessica Bowron
Exercising the Delegated Authority of the Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum and Ms. Bowron,

We write to you to express our concern surrounding the recent removal of historically and culturally accurate information pertaining to the history of Native Americans at National Park units across the country.

On March 27, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order (EO) 14253, titled the “Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History”, which directed the Secretary of Interior to review public monuments, memorials, statues, markers, or others with similar properties within the Department’s jurisdiction, “to restore Federal sites dedicated to history, and revitalize public monuments that remind Americans of their extraordinary heritage, consistent progress toward becoming a more perfect Union...”¹

Under these directives, a dangerous precedent has been set. Across the country, administration officials have instructed National Park Service (NPS) staff to edit, or in some cases, remove signage in National Parks in Arizona, Texas, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah, including the entire removal of a display at the Grand Canyon detailing the forced removal of Native Americans in the region.² Additionally, one exhibit at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument was ordered to be changed for discussing the history of Federal Indian Boarding Schools that used forced assimilation and sought to erase Native culture, language, and heritage.³

Not only are these actions harmful and undermine the unique government-to-government relationship central to Indian Country and the federal government, but they are not aligned with the *National Park Service Organic Act* and subsequent congressional intent for NPS operations. The U.S. Code directs the NPS, “to conserve the... historic objects... and to provide for the enjoyment... in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” It adds that the NPS shall, “provide state-of-the-art... interpretation of and research on the resources of the National Park System,” and “assure that the management of units of the National Park System is enhanced by the availability and utilization of a broad program of the highest quality science and information.”⁴

¹ “SO 3431 – Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History,” U.S. Department of the Interior, May 20, 2025, <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3431-restoring-truth-and-sanity-american-history>.

² “Trump administration is erasing history and science at national parks, lawsuit argues,” National Public radio, February 18, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/02/18/nx-s1-5718006/trump-national-parks-lawsuit>.

³ Jake Spring, “National park signs related to Native Americans, climate change to be removed,” The Washington Post, January 27, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2026/01/27/national-parks-signs-censorship/>.

⁴ “National Parks Conservation Association Joins Coalition Lawsuit to Stop Censorship of History, Science in Parks,” National Parks Conservation Association, February 17, 2026, <https://www.npca.org/articles/11336-national-parks-conservation-association-joins-coalition-lawsuit-to-stop>.

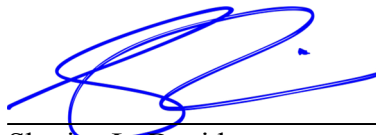
Impeding Americans from learning about the full history of these sites erases important stories and undermines our relationship with Native communities. As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, we should applaud our progress by embracing our history not ignoring it.

Therefore, we request an answer to the following questions by April 24, 2026:

1. How many NPS exhibits have been edited or removed as a result of EO 14253?
2. Please share the nature of these exhibits, the edits, and the unit each is located in.
3. Have exhibits dealing with Native history been edited or removed by this administration under any authority?
4. Did the NPS consult with any relevant Native communities before making these changes?
5. How have these changes impacted Tribal co-stewardship agreements in NPS units?

Additionally, we ask that you reverse course and immediately reinstate historically and culturally accurate information about Native communities at affected NPS units. Thank you for attention to this urgent matter.

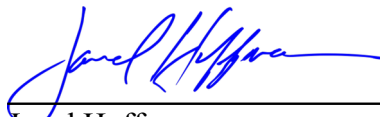
Sincerely,



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



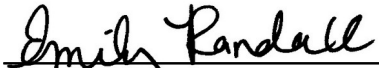
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



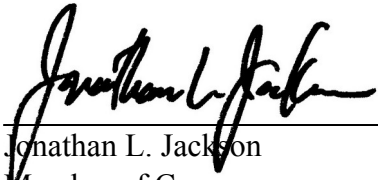
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



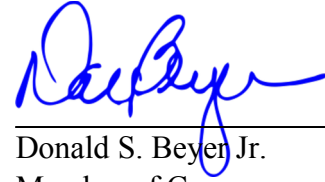
MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



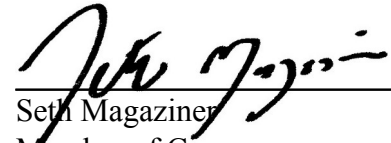
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
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Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
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Dina Titus
Member of Congress



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Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Ted W. Lieu
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